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30P

THE TIMES

No. 64,835 FRIDAY DECEMBER 24 1993

Sinn Fein deals blow to Major

Ulster accord 'not enough' to halt killing

By Nicholas Watt
Ireland Correspondent

■ The IRA's Christmas ceasefire had a sting in its tail, signalling dissatisfaction with peace deal offers. An IRA amnesty is still demanded

JOHN Major's Northern Ireland peace initiative suffered a setback last night when a leading member of Sinn Fein said the Downing Street declaration was too weak to persuade the IRA to end its violence.

As the IRA announced a 72-hour holiday ceasefire, Martin McGuinness said that for all the declaration's "grand phraseology", it would not solve the province's problems.

His party's "project for peace" was aimed at ending the violence, and he hoped the declaration might be "a beginning", but he said: "Unfortunately, at this point in time, the political situation hasn't developed to a position where Sinn Fein can use its influence to end attacks on the British Crown forces."

The IRA has yet to respond to the joint declaration by Mr Major and his Irish counterpart, Albert Reynolds, but it is expected to hold top-level discussions on the subject in the coming week. These will be attended by senior IRA men among some 400 republican and Loyalist prisoners released from jails in Northern Ireland yesterday for a week's Christmas leave.

The prisoners are released with a licence saying they are free to go anywhere in Northern Ireland until December 30. Those freed included the Brendan McFarlane, who is serving five life sentences for murder, and Bobby Storey, a ringleader of the Maze mass escape who is serving seven years. They are expected to insist on an amnesty, or at least early release, as a prerequisite for any permanent peace deal.

The traditional IRA Christmas ceasefire is in part declared to coincide with the prisoners' parole, but its announcement this year was also an indication of the IRA's dissatisfaction with the Downing Street declaration. Had it been encouraged, the truce might have been extended.

Instead, the IRA merely issued a terse statement saying: "As of midnight December 23, and for a period of 72 hours thereafter, active service units of the Irish Republican Army across the occupied six counties will temporarily suspend military operations."

The announcement was treated with disdain by Downing Street, which said: "Christmas is the time of peace, but it should be a lasting peace and not just a temporary lull in the killing."

The ceasefire was a distraction from the real issue, the statement added. "The people in Northern Ireland want a permanent end to violence, not a temporary ceasefire. Both governments made it clear in the joint declaration that the achievement of peace must involve a permanent end to the use of, or support for, paramilitary violence. It is only after a permanent end to violence has been demonstrated that the doors to normal democratic politics can open. The question for all involved in violence is: "Will you stop the violence now, for good?" You have the best opportunity to do so for many years and it will not last forever."

On Wednesday, Mr Major ventured into the republican heartland of West Belfast to challenge Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, to pick up "the gauntlet for peace". But his remarks enraged Mr McGuinness, who said: "I hear that John Major has stated there was a gauntlet for peace on the table. Republicans are looking up at what is on the table and they are seeing 30,000 armed British soldiers with their guns pointed at their heads.

"Who is going to persuade the British Government to give up its violence? Who is going to persuade the Loyalists to give up their violence? Why does it have to start with the IRA? Has Britain no responsibility in the matter?"

Mr McGuinness's comments were Sinn Fein's most hardline response to the Downing Street declaration and a clear signal that the IRA is unhappy with it as it stands. But in an interview with the *Derry Journal*, Mr McGuinness made clear that Sinn Fein wanted to keep the initiative alive. "Maybe this declaration is the beginning," he said. "But it is ambiguous at the moment, there are contradictions in it and we need clarifications on these points." Mr Adams, who is said to be unwell and has been ordered to rest over the holiday, has repeatedly demanded clarifications since the declaration was issued on December 15.

But in Dublin, Dick Spring echoed Mr Major's comments on Wednesday that he could not wait forever for a Sinn Fein response. The Irish Foreign Minister said the party should use the Christmas period to make a decision.

Mr Major also received strong support from the Ulster Unionists yesterday. Jim Molyneaux, the party leader who met the Prime Minister at Hillsborough Castle on Wednesday night with the leaders of Ulster's other constitutional parties, praised him for turning world opinion against the IRA.

Mr Molyneaux said: "The declaration was not designed to please us. It didn't please us, it still doesn't please us. But we have to recognise that it is essential that world opinion should be marshalled behind the two governments, and particularly the British Government, in challenging the IRA to put an end in its entirety to their violence."

Letters, page 15

Anger as court clears Marines

Two Royal Marines who killed a Sinn Fein member and injured his brother at a checkpoint three years ago were yesterday cleared of murder and attempted murder by a Belfast court. Relatives and friends of the men condemned the verdict.....Page 2



MARC ASPLAND

Choristers rehearsing in King's College Chapel, Cambridge, yesterday for this afternoon's Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, a signal to millions that Christmas has truly begun. The boy chosen to sing the opening verse of *Once In Royal David's City* will not be told until just before the service

Clintons 'face subpoena' over business dealings

From Martin Fletcher in Washington

QUESTIONS about President Clinton's past business dealings yesterday overshadowed those about his extra-marital activities after reports that the Justice Department was homing in on his links with a bankrupt Arkansas financier.

The *Wall Street Journal* said the department, which is conducting a criminal investigation of the financier, was considering seeking a subpoena to obtain a key file on those links that Mr and Mrs Clinton do not wish to surrender. Publicly Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, denied the White House was impeding the department's investigation.

The New York Times and *The Washington Post* both called for the release of the file which the President's aides had quickly and quietly removed from the office of Vincent Foster, the deputy White House counsel and Clinton family lawyer, after he committed suicide last July.

Republicans led by Robert Dole, the Senate minority leader, are demanding a congressional investigation into Mr Clinton's dealings with the financier, James McDougal, when he was Governor of Arkansas. Mr McDougal, an old friend and political associate of the Clintons, was owner of Little Rock's Madison Savings and Loan Association, the American equivalent of a building society.

The Justice Department is investigating whether Mr McDougal improperly diverted funds from his failing S & L to Mr Clinton and other Arkansas politicians in the mid-1980s, and to a property venture called Whitewater Development in which the Clintons were joint partners with Mr and Mrs McDougal.

At that time Mr McDougal, with Hillary Clinton as his lawyer, was seeking the state's permission to relax his S & L's borrowing restrictions in a desperate attempt to stay in business. He succeeded, and the S & L thus managed to survive a few more years before collapsing in 1989 at a cost to taxpayers of $60 million (£40.25 million). The White House's conduct has fanned suspicions that the file may contain damaging material. Police investigating Mr Vincent's death last summer were not permitted to inspect it. Reporters were led to believe that White House officials had removed nothing of substance from Mr Foster's office. Only this week, after investigators began pressing for its release, did the White House admit that the file had been sent to David Kendall, the Clintons' new lawyer.

On Tuesday Mrs Clinton said she did not intend to surrender the file, and expressed "bewilderment" that anyone should still be interested in Whitewater — a venture in which the Clintons insisted during last year's campaign that they had been passive partners and had lost $69,000. On Wednesday Mr Clinton said he wished to co-operate with the investigators but stopped short of saying he would release the file.

Bruce Lindsey, a close aide and confidant of the President, has been assigned to answer questions about the issue. This and other indications from the White House suggest that officials are more worried about this issue than they are about sexual allegations.



Reno: denies White House interference

Editors confused, page 11

Snow promises cold comfort for shepherds

By Dominic Kennedy

WHILE shepherds watch their flocks by night, the Transport and General Workers' Union will be bringing them glad tidings of great joy.

The 71-year-old union — motto "Stronger because we care" — is preparing to claim double time-and-a-half for any of its sheep-herding brethren forced to dig stray lambs from snow drifts on Christmas Day.

"Our shepherds will be freezing to bloody death if there's a white Christmas," said Paul Redgate, a regional official at Newcastle upon Tyne who is himself a former shepherd. "Livestock doesn't take any notice of the festive season, so our members will still go out and check their flocks, bringing them hay and barley.

"If it snows, you kiss your wife goodbye in the morning and set off with your dog to look for lost sheep."

The T&G represents all of Britain's unionised shepherds, but they form only a small proportion of the re-

Continued on page 2, col 4

Travel and weather, page 2

"At Christmas the rush of the world stops for one moment, and we hold our breath, and catch a glimpse of a love which 'bears all things, endures all things and hopes all things' and invites us to risk our lives on its truth, the truth of the Word of God who became flesh and dwelt among us, the truth of the Child of Bethlehem."

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Bosnian kidnappers free British soldiers

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

FOUR British soldiers on patrol in central Bosnia were kidnapped by a maverick Muslim gang yesterday and held for several hours. One escaped after a struggle but the other three were taken away along with their armoured personnel carrier.

The kidnapping, by a group described as "uncontrolled elements" of Muslim forces, took place near Gornji Vakuf, west of Vitez, where the main party of British forces — consisting of the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards and other army units — is based.

The four Coldstream soldiers were on patrol in an armoured personnel carrier when Muslims, armed with Kalashnikovs, surrounded them. The Muslims emerged from an area in which a gang has been operating for the last eight months, and who were responsible for killing an aid worker earlier this year. It was the first time, however, that British soldiers had been kidnapped, although earlier this year British troops were ambushed by Muslim forces near Busovaca, in central Bosnia, and the soldiers were forced to hand over their SA80 rifles.

Before the soldiers' release last night, urgent consultations were held with the local factional commanders to seek help in finding the missing patrol. The soldier who escaped was also debriefed at the British logistics camp in Gornji Vakuf.

A company of Coldstream Guards and about 200 support personnel, including Royal Engineers, are based at Gornji Vakuf.

Renewed gunfire, page 9
Valerie Grove, page 13

Christmas euphoria hits City

By Michael Clark and Sara McConnell

EUROPEAN stock markets hit record highs yesterday as investors went on a Christmas buying spree.

The London stock market soared to its highest levels ever with the FT-SE 100 Index briefly breaching 3,400 before closing 40.8 up at a closing record high of 3,396.5. That brings the rise on the week so far to almost 60 points.

The euphoria in London was mirrored on the Paris Bourse where the CAC-40 Index surged 17.16 to a new closing high of 2,243.02. In Frankfurt the Dax index rose 17.16 to 2,227.09.

Festive cheer, page 19
All-time highs, page 22

Russian captors force children on helicopter

From Reuter in Moscow

A HELICOPTER commandeered by four gunmen who have kidnapped 12 schoolchildren and a teacher from the southern Russian city of Rostov-on-Don, landed in Krasnodar yesterday, Russian news agencies said.

Itar-Tass news agency said the kidnappers told officials in Krasnodar, 180 miles south of Rostov, they wanted a plane in which to fly to a destination outside Russia, possibly Iran via Grozny, capital of Chechnya.

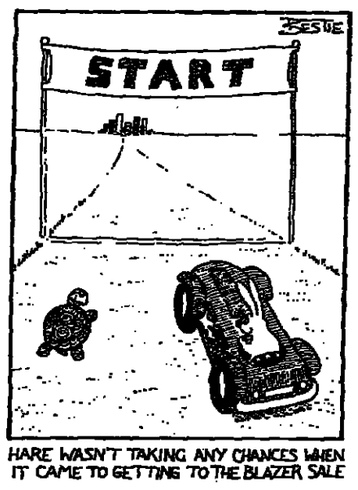
The heavily-armed gunmen took the boys and girls, aged 15 and 16, and their teacher hostage after storming into Rostov Gymnasium school at midday yesterday. Interior ministry officials provided them with a transport helicopter at the city's military airport in the hope that the gunmen would release their hostages.

A schoolgirl, released by the gunmen to relay the demand for the helicopter, quoted them as saying: "We all are sick with Aids. We have nothing to lose."

A local journalist said the men rejected a plea by the authorities to exchange two local officials, including the mayor of Rostov, for the children. The gunmen are also believed to have a suitcase of explosives.

The drama began at about noon, when the gunmen, wearing combat fatigues and bullet-proof vests, burst into a classroom and fired several shots into the ceiling. They then herded the class into a minibus. Interfax news agency said there were 19 people on board, including the minibus driver and a serviceman seized at some point during negotiations.

THE BLAZER SALE



HARE WASN'T TAKING ANY CHANCES WHEN IT CAME TO GETTING TO THE BLAZER SALE

..... STARTS

MONDAY 27 DECEMBER

AT 11AM

London: Covent Garden, Bond Street, Kings Road, Oxford Street, Kensington, Brent Cross, Whiteleys, Hampstead, Ealing.

Outside London: Guildford, Winchester, Richmond, Manchester, Nottingham, Brighton, Bath, Kingston, Sheffield, Bromley, Cheltenham, Windsor, Glasgow, Watford, Birmingham.

* Sale starts 29 December at Broadgate, Fenchurch Street and Canary Wharf.

SALE · SALE · SALE · SALE · SALE · SALE

Judge clears Marines who killed Sinn Fein member

BY NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

TWO Royal Marines who shot and killed a member of Sinn Fein and wounded his brother in South Armagh three years ago were cleared yesterday of murder and attempted murder.

As the two soldiers were freed, relatives and friends of the dead man's family and nationalists condemned the verdict. The SDLP described it as depressing.

Fergal Caraher died after Lance-Corporal Richard Elkington, 23, and Marine Andrew Callaghan, 21, fired 20 shots at his car as his brother allegedly sped from a checkpoint. The soldiers said they opened fire to save a colleague who, they said, was being carried on the bonnet.

Sir Brian Hutton, the Northern Ireland Chief Justice, said that he was acquitting the soldiers because he had "reasonable doubt as to the guilt of each of the accused". There were flaws in their evidence, but there was scientific evidence to support their claims, he said after delivering his verdicts at Crumlin Road court in Belfast.

The two soldiers said that they fired on Mr Caraher's car, killing him and seriously injuring his brother Micheal, after the pair drove away from an army checkpoint in Cullyhana on December 30, 1990. Cpl Elkington said that he tried to stop the car by smashing the driver's window. As the car sped off, a third soldier, known as Marine B, disappeared, which prompted Cpl Elkington to fire 11 shots at the vehicle. Marine Callaghan fired 9 shots. Civilian witnesses disputed the soldiers' claims, and said they made no attempt to stop the car.

Sir Brian said there was a complete conflict between the prosecution and defence witnesses. "I am satisfied from the way in which the civilian witnesses gave their statements to the police and refused to answer questions from the police that they were not impartial witnesses," he said.

"On the other hand, the two accused, facing grave charges, and their comrade Marine B had a very strong motive to give an exaggerated or untruthful account of what happened in the car park."

However, Sir Brian added that there was clear evidence that Cpl Elkington had smashed the driver's window and that the car had come into contact with a soldier, because fibres of a camouflage uniform were found on its bonnet. Sir Brian concluded that there was reasonable doubt as to the guilt of the soldiers.

Mr Caraher's widow and father attacked the verdict outside the court. Peter Caraher said: "It's very sad for us, two days before Christmas, to be here knowing that these two soldiers will be going back home to celebrate Christmas with their families."

The case became one of the most contentious in Northern Ireland in recent years. Michael Mansfield QC chaired an unofficial public enquiry into the shootings, but the army refused to take part.

CHRIS HARRIS



Samantha Lewis, 16, who is blind, receiving a hug from her sister Heidi, 7, yesterday at Mount Pleasant sorting office, north London. Royal Mail staff presented Samantha, of Kingstanding, Birmingham, with a talking pocket calculator after a "Dear Santa" letter from Heidi requested the gift for her sister but nothing for herself

The Great Christmas Getaway overloads roads and trains

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT
TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

THE country's roads were reported to be busy everywhere last night as families reunited for a festive break which, for some, will be up to ten days long.

Sea and airports were processing record numbers of passengers and British Rail services were so full that special boarding passes had to be issued to people booking at the last minute.

BR was discouraging people from standing on trains, each of which can carry about 400 people — slightly more than a jumbo jet.

There are no trains running tomorrow and only a half-hourly Gatwick Express service on Sunday. Only passengers holding seat reservations were able to travel on the busiest InterCity routes out of London last night. The same rule applies today.

There are no London Bus or Underground trains tomorrow and a number of stations (mainly in outer London areas) will be closed on Sunday.

Airlines meanwhile have put on extra flights, especially to Belfast, Paris, Dublin and Glasgow. British Airways has appealed for volunteers to man the airline's super shuttle services with five extra flights to Belfast. Gatwick, the biggest holiday airport, was handling more than 40,000 passengers today and expects to cater for more than 200,000 from now until Monday.

Gatwick's busiest day over the Christmas period is expected to be Monday, when about 54,000 passengers are expected to pass through the airport.

Stansted in Essex is expecting to handle 100,000 passengers over Christmas and New Year compared with 60,000 last year.

The Irish airline Aer Lingus is providing extra flights from eight airports in the UK to take about 24,000 passengers to Ireland.

By tonight, Heathrow will have handled about 650,000 passengers in five days. Although most services will not operate tomorrow, BA will operate four 747 jumbo jet services from Gatwick to the Caribbean, each of which is full.

On the roads there is likely to be congestion at about 15 roadworks "blackspots", to the annoyance of the AA and the RAC.

The two motorists' organisations accused the Government of giving only lip service to pledges to remove cones during the Christmas season.

Because many people decided to start their Christmas holiday early, however, there was, in general, only minor delay on the roads yesterday.

People travelling across the Scottish border face serious disruption to their journey after a gas leak in a supply pipe near Beattock, Dumfries and Galloway, blew a 30-yard-long seam in the ground.

About 30 people were moved from their homes and the A74, the main Glasgow to Carlisle road, was closed for 12 hours.

The weather, which had been expected to bring a white Christmas to much of Britain, remained in indeterminate mood yesterday, with cold air to the north and warm air to the south. This is likely to bring snow to much of Britain north of Nottinghamshire, but only scattered wintry showers with the possibility of short-lived snow flurries in the South.

It will, however, be cold everywhere and motorists are warned to take extra care on the roads.

Shepherds still watch

Continued from page 1

maining "shepherding community" of about 2,000. If the Angel of the Lord had come down to a glenside near Peebles in the Scottish borders a generation ago, he would have found 14 shepherds all seated on the ground. Today, the International Sheepdog Society reports sadly, there is only one.

Bryan Stevens, 36, a sheep farmer who tends a flock of 600 on a 1,000ft hillside on Exmoor, said testily: "The best place for snow is on Christmas cards. When you've gone out in a blizzard equipped with a 15ft pole, sticking it into drifts then digging for any sheep-like object it touches, a white Christmas loses its magic."

Sheep, however, may not be in need of rescue — unless the weather deteriorates considerably. The London Weather Centre reported a maximum of 10cm of snow on the ground in the Highlands of Scotland, at Aviemore, yesterday, although further flurries are predicted for the weekend.

Snow is also forecast to spread into northern England and, with the wind expected to pick up, shepherds there may be in with a chance of picking up double time-and-a-half.

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Philip Howard, page 14
Leading article and Letters, page 15
Forecast, page 18
The Times carol Weekend, page 7

NEWS IN BRIEF

Children among seven killed in house fires

Four children were among seven people killed in separate house fires yesterday. Firemen with breathing apparatus were unable to rescue three children — a girl, 3, and two boys aged 5 and 2 — who died while sleeping in a flat in Dundee. Their grandmother Pamela Cowie, 45, who was baby-sitting, was treated in Ninewells hospital for smoke inhalation.

A neighbour who tried to rescue them said: "I could see halfway down the hall. It was just flames and smoke. We couldn't get in at all. We knew there were still children in there and we couldn't get them. It was terrible."

A six-year-old girl, her mother Tracey Bayford, 28, her husband Melvin, and the child's grandfather Granville Hulin died in another fire in a house at Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire. Adjoining homes were evacuated because of the intensity of the flames. Forensic examinations were being concentrated on the living room to see if the fire could have started among Christmas decorations or furniture.

Car exports slump

Production of cars for export fell by 29 per cent last month as British manufacturers began to feel the full effect of recession on the Continent. Commercial vehicle output has fallen by 21.96 per cent with exports down a third this year. Output of cars rose by 9.93 per cent last month to 128,401, reflecting the rapidly improving state of the new car market in the UK where registrations were up 19.4 per cent in November. Output for the 11 months so far this year at 1.288 million was 7.69 per cent ahead of the same period last year, a fact that has done little to cheer car makers.

Funeral trip man killed

George Elwes, 22, the son of the Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire, was killed in a head-on collision with a lorry on Wednesday while on the way to his grandmother's funeral. Henry Elwes, his wife Carolyn and elder sons, John and Frederick, were at the church in Colesbourne, Gloucestershire, when told of the accident by police.

Girls raped by gang

Two girls aged 14 and 15 were raped and indecently assaulted by about six teenage youths in Catford, southeast London, police said. They were approached by four of a gang of 25 entering a McDonald's restaurant on Wednesday, surrounded and marched to an alleyway behind the nearby Rising Sun pub. Police are appealing for witnesses.

Paramount bid odds-on

The takeover bid for Paramount Communications by Barry Diller, 51, the college drop-out who started in a talent agency postroom, looks likely to succeed, making him the owner of the renowned $10 billion Hollywood film studio. His bid for Paramount, whose films include *The Firm*, *The Godfather* and *Beverly Hills Cop*, has been backed by the board.

Truancy watch on way



Plans for a network of "truancy watch" schemes are to go ahead in the new year, John Patten, left, the education secretary, said yesterday in distributing £270 million of grants, including more than £7 million for special educational needs. Final details of the truancy initiative will not be announced until the end of next month, giving local authorities more time to submit bids.

Gallery's future safe

The Serpentine Gallery in Hyde Park, London, is safe, the Heritage Department said. Iain Sproat, the junior minister, had wanted to replace it with horse-riding facilities, but his plans were rejected by senior heritage staff. The gallery will have a new 15-year lease at a rent of £5,000 a year during renovation, and £10,000 once repairs are complete.

Tories back abolition of Lamont's seat

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Conservative Party has given its blessing to the disappearance of Norman Lamont's constituency of Kingston upon Thames, southwest London.

Rounding off a depressing year for the former Chancellor, his party has decided that the seat which he has held since 1972 should no longer exist. With changes to boundaries almost finalised, the seat is expected to be squeezed out in the rearrangement of south London.

Conservative Central Office has stood back from intervening to save the seat, deciding that the constituency should be divided between the neighbouring seats of Twickenham, Surbiton and Richmond & Barnes. A decision is likely early in the new year.

Mr Lamont, who lost his position as Chancellor in May, is likely to chance his political arm by putting his name forward for other constituencies, possibly the newly created seat of Vale of York.

"We would be very pleased to see him back in the next parliament," Conservative Central Office said.

Ministers to spend more time with their families

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

IN TUNE with John Major's "back to basics" message, he and most of his cabinet colleagues will spend Christmas Day at home with their families.

Mr Major, who spent last Christmas at Chequers after a punishing schedule of foreign trips that ended with a surprise visit to Bosnia, will be at his house in Great Stukeley, Cambridgeshire. He is not expected back at Downing Street until January 6 and his first international engagement is the Nato summit in Brussels on January 10.

Of other senior ministers who were prepared to reveal their arrangements, only Douglas Hurd may be celebrating Christmas Day away from home. He is expected to spend the break shuttling beteween his house in Oxfordshire and Chevening, the Foreign Secretary's official residence in Kent.

Only a handful of senior members are known to be planning any time abroad during the break. They include John Patten, the Education Secretary, who will spend a few days in Venice to make up for a summer holiday cut short by illness.

Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, will spend Christmas Day in London with his wife, mother and mother-in-law.

Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary, will embark on a round of hospital visits, mostly in and around her Surrey South West constituency.

One cabinet minister who certainly will be taking it easy is Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade, who suffered a heart attack on holiday in Venice in June. He will relax at home in Oxfordshire.

☐ Mr Major has returned for the first time to the Westminster house where Margaret Thatcher's downfall was plotted. He was the surprise guest at the Christmas gathering of the Blue Chip Dining Club — formed by the brightest Tory MPs of the 1979 intake — at the Catherine Place home of Tristan Garel-Jones, the former Foreign Office minister.

Hours after the inconclusive first ballot in the Tory leadership contest in November 1990, a dozen ministers met there in what came to be known as the "Catherine Place conspiracy". It concluded that Margaret Thatcher was finished as prime minister.

27 Jamaicans to be deported

BY EDWARD GORMAN

THE 27 people still being held at Gatwick after arriving from Jamaica have been refused entry to Britain and face Christmas in detention.

Charles Wardle, a junior Home Office minister, yesterday denied allegations that the Government's immigration policy was racist. He said it was "mischievous nonsense" to claim that the 190 Jamaicans detained after arriving on a holiday charter from Kingston on Tuesday had been held because they were black.

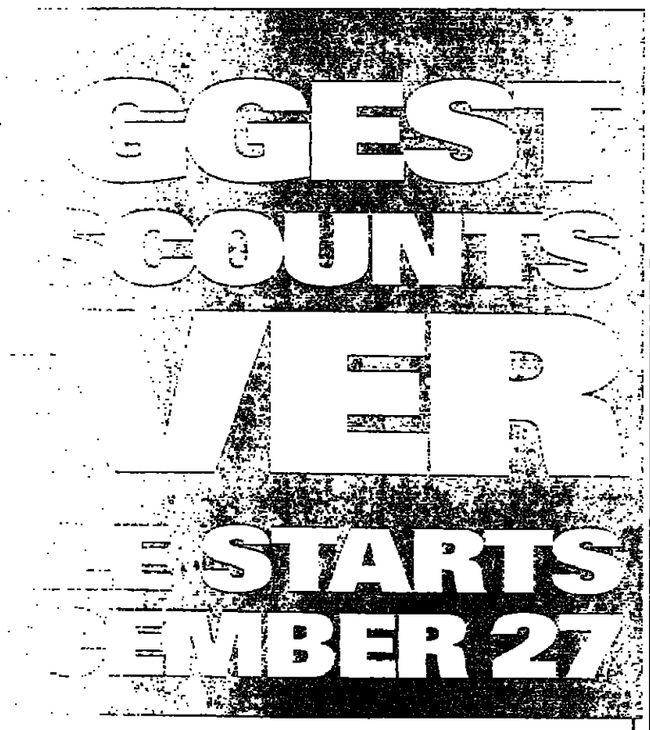
"I do not think they are being treated unfairly at all," he said. "Last year, we welcomed 26,000 visitors from Jamaica. Just 400 people were refused."

Mr Wardle said some passengers, all of whom had return tickets, had told immigration officers at Gatwick that they planned to settle in England, despite not having authorisation.

He said others were using newly issued passports that were found to have replaced ones with a "refused entry" stamp for Britain.

Families accused the immigration service of treating their loved ones like criminals. Naomi Cameron, whose brother Webster Edwards, 52, was forced to spend the first night of his holiday at a detention centre, said her brother was a law-abiding man yet he had been treated like a prisoner.

The Home Office said of the 190 passengers detained, 27 were in custody and awaiting deportation. In all, 56 people were refused entry on grounds that they intended to stay illegally but some had been given temporary admission. A further 52 had been given temporary admission pending the outcome of interviews.



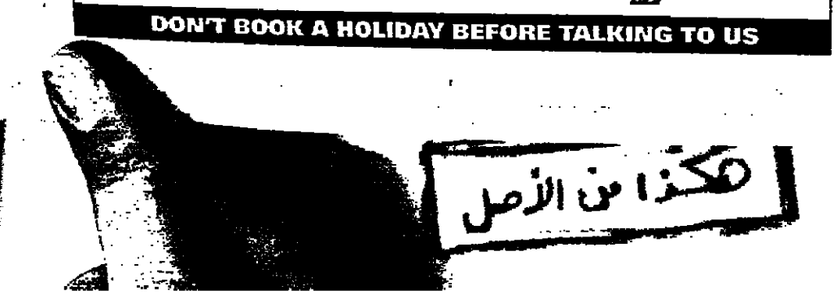
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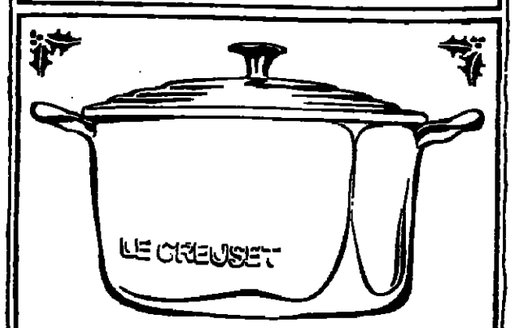
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هكذا من الاصل

BRIEF

ong seven
se fires

people killed in separate
ith breathing apparatus
n—a girl, 5, and two boys
eping in a flat in Dundee
45, who was babysitting
for smoke inhalation.
e them said "I could see
flames and smoke. We
ere were still children in
was terrible."
Tracey Basford, 25, her
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'Within the national family we are very good at the arts and that feeds into the national economy'

Gowrie takes role as unpaid leader of vexed Arts Council

BY ALISON ROBERTS, ARTS REPORTER

LORD Gowrie, the art dealer, former arts minister and until recently chairman of Sotheby's Europe, is to replace Lord Palumbo as chairman of the Arts Council.

The announcement yesterday by Peter Brooke, the National Heritage Secretary, ends months of speculation and delivers the troubled council into what the Heritage Department will regard as a safe pair of hands.

A cut in government budget, a series of policy U-turns and a major change in its structure have dogged the council over the past year.

The Heritage Department will see Lord Gowrie, 54, who described himself as a "music, visual arts and movie man", was educated at Eton, Oxford and Harvard and has held many high-profile jobs within the art establishment, including Provost of the Royal College of Art and most recently chairman of the Booker Prize judges.

Although likely to form a better relationship with his government paymasters than his predecessor, he may clash with the Heritage Department over modern art. He heads the trustees at the avant-garde Serpentine Gallery — a post which he will give up on becoming chairman in March — and his eclectic and flamboyant taste may rile some of the traditionalists.

Lord Gowrie will not receive a salary for his work at the Arts Council, which he said would take about a third of his time. In 1985, he resigned from his post as arts minister, saying that he could not live on his £33,000 ministerial salary. Since then, his shareholdings at Sotheby's have been estimated at £1.5 million and his salary at the auctioneers was thought to be between £150,000 and £200,000 a year. He remains on the board of Sotheby's Holdings and will now devote more time to his private business.

The arts world reacted cautiously to the appointment. Above all, it wants a strong chairman to fight for arts funding, but yesterday Lord Gowrie brushed aside the council's 1.7 per cent cut for 1994-95. "There have been in fact some very substantial increases in the past and sometimes reinings back. One is much more fun than the other," he said.

Jeremy Isaacs, general director of the Royal Opera House, said that the new chairman's first job should be a "thorough and proper assessment of the needs of the Arts Council's clients".

Lord Palumbo welcomed the appointment, using the opportunity to take a sideswipe at his critics, who have included two former arts ministers, Tim Renton and David Mellor. "There has been some uninformed and irresponsible speculation recently about the future of the Arts Council," he said. "Lord Gowrie's appointment will put an end once and for all to that particular matter."

Lord Gowrie would not comment on council policy but said that he intended to stress the economic benefits which flow from artistic activity. "Within the national family we are very good at the arts and that feeds into the national household economy. Quality of life is an industry." His aptitude for the soundbite will please Mr Brooke, who has asked the Arts Council to "do more to explain its workings to the public". Lord Gowrie will become the first chairman of the new Arts Council of England, which will be created next year after devolution of the Scottish and Welsh arts councils. A major responsibility will be distributing National Lottery funds to arts groups. Mr Brooke said yesterday: "Lord Gowrie's appointment comes at a crucial time."

Leading article, page 15



Palumbo: an end to speculation

PETER TREVNOR



Lord Gowrie in Trafalgar Square yesterday. He will stress the economic benefits of artistic activity: "Quality of life is an industry"

Countdown to Christmas

Stores cash in as buyers go on last-minute spree

BY LUCY BERRINGTON

MANY shoppers are delaying until the last minute before making their main Christmas purchases, retailers said yesterday.

Barclaycard reports a steady take-off over the past few days after a slow start to December. Last weekend, traditionally the busiest, spending was 15 per cent up on last year, according to the credit card company.

In the City of London yesterday lunchtime, one branch of Marks & Spencer was so packed with shoppers that management ordered security staff to keep them out.

Harrods reported brisk business, though the store's most expensive item had not sold by yesterday afternoon. An 18-carat gold jellybean dispenser encrusted with 85-carat diamonds, priced at £250,000, remained on the shelf while conventional dispensers were moving fast at £25. A gold and diamond-encrusted computer game was ordered by a regular customer for £55,000.

Gaultier has been the most popular fragrance at Harrods, with 1,300 bottles sold in December. The most popular fashion items have been anything in velvet as well as crucifixes and chokers.

Margaret Thatcher — The Downing Street Years and *Brave Two Zero* by Andy McNab have topped the book sales, while *The Jungle Book*, at more than 1,400 copies sold, is the favourite video. During the run-up to Christmas, £1 billion has been spent on toys and games in the UK. Products featuring film and television characters such as Aladdin and Captain Scarlet have been especially successful.

Harrods has also been scoured for the traditional favourites such as rocking horses, at up to £3,000 each, and more than 20,000 teddy bears.

Hamleys listed this year's top ten selling toys as: Sega computer games: Mega Drive (£129.99) and Game Gear (£99.99); Squiggle Wriggle Writer (£4.99); Self-tying Shoelaces (£3.99); Nintendo computer games: Super NES (£99.99) and Game Boy with Tetris (£49.99); changeable colouring pens (£3.99); Rapidough Boxed Game (£25.99); Tomy Char-G Radio Controlled Car (£14.99); Barbie's Hollywood Hair (£11.99) and TeenTalk (£16.99); Air Art Blitzer (£7.99); and Lego's Castle range.

Elsewhere, trading standards officers have warned that fake goods have been on sale this Christmas in "epidemic proportions". Most counterfeited goods are clothes, cosmetics and audio-visual and cassette equipment. More unusual fakes include nursery equipment, computers and computer games, alcohol, soap powder, garden ornaments, car accessories and parts, concert programmes, football strips, golf clubs, cigarette cases and lighters.

An ITSA spokesman said: "At this festive time the institute is urging the purchasing public to be vigilant for counterfeit goods, and report any irregularities to their local trading standards officers."

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Gollies are in demand

BY ANDREW PIERCE

THE golly, favourite target of the politically correct brigade, has made a Christmas comeback. Demand for the 19th-century toy has soared.

R H M Foods, manufacturer of Robertson's jam, which sports a golly on the jar, has been working overtime producing a range of products.

The company is sending out an average of 6,000 golly badges every week along with hundreds of soft toys. "There is a remarkable resurgence of interest in the golly," said the company, which introduced the golly as a trademark at the turn of the century.

There was a rush of orders after Greenwich council suspended a childminder because she had an antique golly in her private toy collection. Robertson golly toys, toast-racks, bags, mugs, money boxes, keyrings and radios are selling fast.

Harrods said it had sold all its stock of the company's gollies.

Alan Duncan, Tory MP for Rutland and Melton, championing the fight against political correctness, has been sent dozens in the post. "I think they make wonderful Christmas presents," he said.

Marlene Jeffs, who runs a toy cottage industry in Camborne, Cornwall, now makes more than 100 gollies a month, having first checked with trading standards officials that they will not cause racial offence. "There is still some contention about them. But more and more shops want to stock them."



Gollies: more shops want to stock them

For the homeless, a shelter

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

CRISIS, the charity that has become as essential a part of the capital's Christmas as the display of window dressers' art, opened yesterday. It concludes a jubilee year for the organisation, based in east London, which began in 1967 and took 100 homeless off the streets with its first shelter.

By the end of its first hour yesterday, three times that number had shuffled into a converted warehouse in Southwark, southeast London, which will be home to an expected 600 "guests" for the next week.

The charity, formerly Crisis at Christmas, will help 2,000 people at three makeshift hostels, including for the first time one in Acton, west London. "That's in the constituency of Sir George Young, the housing minister," Mark Scothern, the director of Crisis, said.

For several hours before it opened, a crowd gathered outside the warehouse's gates. Some were disturbingly young and fresh-faced, some feeble in body or mind. Many recognised one another from the last Christmas, the last soup queue, or last night sleeping on the South Bank.

There are only three rules at Crisis: no alcohol, no drugs and no violence.

Inside, hundreds of mattresses and piles of bedding had been pushed against walls decorated with paintings by schoolchildren. As well as food, tea, hot showers, toilets, books, games and televisions, there is a dental service, state-registered chiropodists, hairdresser and masseur.

Of 400 guests screened for tuberculosis last Christmas nearly 30 showed signs of the disease. The service is being provided again this year.

John Cohen, 62, who has spent many years on the streets, said: "For many of us, the lonely, the homeless, the people of the streets, this is our one little holiday of the year, and we spend all 12 months looking forward to it."

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Christmas at work: from doctors to plumbers, thousands of people are ready for every emergency

Health service pays £1m for stand-in hospital surgeons

BY JEREMY LAURANCE AND ROGER DOBSON

THE health service will be run by stand-in doctors at a cost of £1 million this Christmas after an unprecedented demand for locum hospital staff to cover the weekend.

About 1,500 stand-in doctors, each paid £650, are being hired from medical agencies, which are reporting record demand after the clampdown on junior doctors' excessive hours. GP deputising services are also in demand with thousands of family doctors taking the weekend off.

Some agencies coping with a flood of last-minute requests from hospitals desperate for staff are offering special bonuses to woo locums. They are also promising drivers to take doctors on home visits, free meals and accommodation, and prompt payment.

The Locum Group, one of the two biggest agencies, is receiving about 300 calls a day. Julia Meighan, managing director of the group, which operates from ten centres, said: "We're very busy indeed, business is about 40 per cent up on last year and we will have around 250 doctors on duty this weekend.

"If you have an operation this weekend, you are very likely to be seen by a locum. The pressure to reduce junior doctors' hours has had an impact. Last week we had 1,200 calls from hospitals. This week we are expecting more. I would estimate that overall there will be between 1,000 and 1,500 locums on duty in hospitals this weekend."

Agencies campaign heavily for staff. In its advertisement in the *British Medical Journal*, the Darlington agency J. C. L. Locums says: "We have over 20 lines connecting us with every health authority and we can offer you posts from over 1,000 bookings." London-based Medacs is offering a basic weekend rate for senior house officers of £528, with a cheque promised by the following Tuesday.

The locum agencies have mushroomed in recent years. There are thought to be 30 main operators, each having regional branches. Health authorities would prefer to hire their own temporary staff because the rates are lower. But the agencies have a huge pool of doctors — one agency boasts a reservoir of 10,000 locums — and some specialise in disciplines such as paediatrics and anaesthesia.

The Department of Health says it does not have information on how much the NHS spends on locums, or how many are employed.

☐ One GP who will be working this weekend is Dr Madhuka Patel, a family doctor to 350 people on the remote Orkney island of Stromsay, where a locum is a lot further than a telephone call away. He has been working for four months without a break and is advertising for an associate.

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Leading article and Letters, page 15
The Times carol Weekend, page 7

TONY WHITE



Deborah Hoskisson with Anthony and Camilla

Flying to Barbados at 90 minutes' notice

BY A STAFF REPORTER

HOSTESS

DEBORAH Hoskisson, 32, is a long-haul purser for British Airways' flights from Gatwick. On Christmas Day she will be on standby, liable to be sent to the Seychelles, Antigua, Barbados or Bermuda at 90 minutes' notice.

"I could be getting up and my daughter will be in the middle of opening presents, then I'll get the phone call," she said. "A few hours later I'll be going off to Barbados, leaving her at home."

Mrs Hoskisson lives in Chislehurst, southeast London, with her husband Anthony, 29, a savings and investment adviser, and daughter Camilla, 18 months. Christmas means planning for several possibilities: home or abroad, with family or without, hot climate or cold.

"On days off I am a wife and mother, then I'm on a jaunt across the world. One minute it's cold, the next sunny. I need summer and winter clothes ready."

BA has 27 flights scheduled for Christmas Day. Four leave from Gatwick, with eight stewards standing by on 90 minutes' notice. "You can't relax," Mrs Hoskisson said. If she makes it to midday without a call, the family can have 12 uninterrupted hours before she goes on four-hour call.

MICHAEL SCOTT



Flt Lt Robinson of RAF Boulmer's search and rescue team prepares for another Christmas Day in the air

Coffee on tap as they wait in the wings

BY LUCY BERRINGTON

ON DUTY: RESCUER

FIVE years ago, Mark Robinson spent his Christmas scouring the area around Lockerbie. "We went at 9am and came back at 4pm, having spent the day searching for bodies and plotting the major areas of wreckage."

Flt Lt Robinson, 33, is a pilot with 202 Squadron, a search and rescue unit based at RAF Boulmer, Northumberland. "The big jobs which get the public attention are often not that exciting or dangerous for us. It's when we're flying round a mountainside at night in bad conditions that we earn our money. That's heart-in-the-mouth stuff."

The crews work 24-hour shifts on alternate days, but remain on standby in between. Flt Lt Robinson will be working from 9am tomorrow to 9am on Boxing Day, with the festive concession that for the remainder of Boxing Day he will not be on call.

He and his wife Dawn, 29, live at Newton-on-the-Moor in Northumberland, but Mrs Robinson will spend Christmas with her parents in South Yorkshire. On a normal day, the crew would spend four hours in training, but tomorrow will be different. "We'll probably keep flying down to a minimum to spare the ground crew."

The air crew of four, and a ground crew of up to ten, will gather in the crew room with the television and video, with coffee and soft drinks in hand.

They will be waiting for the station commander bearing mince pies, the usual Christmas message from the air officer commanding, visits from families, and the emergency call out. "We wouldn't have to rescue our own military pilots, which is our primary role, but in the rest of the year 99 per cent of our time is spent looking after civilians anyway. Christmas tends, touch wood, to be very quiet.

"New Year is a busier time, when people say: 'Great! Let's go up a mountain'."

They could be called on for mountain rescues, sea rescues, medical evacuations for transplant patients or to give "aid to the civil power", often releasing drivers from snow drifts.

Four-year mission to net a record

BY TIM REID

THIS Christmas, one man will be wading the tranquil shallows of a Scottish loch, continuing his four-year quest to land one of Britain's most graceful and elusive game fish — and with it a record.

Sandy Ferguson belongs to a growing band of anglers hooked by the enigmatic Arctic char, which roams the icy depths of roughly 200 freshwater lochs and teases the country's fly-fisherman with its fleeting visits to the surface.

Beating the record for the fish, at present 9lb 12oz, would be the best possible present for the deer culler from Invergarry in the Highlands, who spends 100 days a year at Loch Arnoch trying to entice what he describes as a once in a lifetime fish on to his line.

"It is a fantastic, beautiful fish. There is something about the char. It is the most canny fish about and not easily caught. They seem to have a fantastic sense of vibration. When you see one rising, you put a fly across it. You'd catch a salmon or a trout, but not a char."

At home only in the coldest of water, the char was probably the first fish to invade Britain from Scandinavia after the last ice age, 10,000 years ago. As the ice-cap receded and the climate warmed, the fish became isolated in Britain's most northern lochs and lakes.

Since then, its distinctive red belly and taste have made it a prize catch. It has even spawned the International Society of Arctic Char Fanatics, a group of scientists who meet to monitor its stocks, threatened recently by water acidification.

Mr Ferguson caught 20 char in one afternoon this year but returned them all because of their size. But it is the challenge of claiming the record that will absorb him this Christmas.

Dog's dinner sitting by the phone

BY LUCY BERRINGTON

VET

"MOST of the owners are very apologetic," says Georgina Hatton, "though some feel it's almost your fault the animal is ill and say can't we hurry up so they can get back to their Christmas dinner."

Mrs Hatton, 31, is a veterinary surgeon. She and her husband Nick, 33, also a vet, are on call and expecting Christmas disruptions.

"You are constantly on edge expecting the phone to ring. We could be quite easily sitting down to dinner when the phone rings and off we go, then coming back and putting our meal in the microwave." Mr Hatton's parents will be joining them at their home near Cardiff. "If we weren't on duty it would be a typical family Christmas: big lunch, take the dogs for a walk. With a mobile phone you are not stuck in the house, but if we go to the pub it's soft drinks only."

They deal with mostly small animals but treat horses or sheep in emergencies, especially road accidents. Other likely Christmas casualties involve difficult whelpings or kittenings needing Caesarians, or dogs with turkey bones lodged in their throats. The evening is the classic time for gastric torsion in deep chested dogs such as Great Danes or German Shepherds, a twisted stomach caused by gorging on rich food. Mrs Hatton expects two or three outings and several non-emergency calls requiring telephone advice, followed by the Boxing Day casualties of dustbin-raiding.

She works one Christmas in four, with no additional payment, and her husband one in two. For compensation they are partying in Dorset to see in the new year.

Burst pipes put dampener on day

BY A STAFF REPORTER

PLUMBER

STEVEN Bickmore, a self-employed plumber, said Christmas Day call-outs caused havoc in his household. "I hand over the cooking, put on my overalls and get out the door," he said. "I wear my little red hat with the bobble to cheer the customers up if I've got any bad news."

Mr Bickmore lives in Edinburgh with his wife Annmarie, 30, who works part-time for the Royal Bank of Scotland, and their sons Daniel, 4½, and Joseph, 2½. He said the likeliest Christmas jobs were leaking radiators, blocked lavatories and broken washers.

The day begins at 7am when the children get up. "I start cooking the lunch while Annmarie goes to chapel, with breaks for presents. I hope it's snowing — we can throw snowballs and the burst pipes won't come until it thaws."

His call-outs are usually quick, 1½ hours at most. "If it's really bad it's a case of switching the water off and returning the next day. It's unfortunate for the customer, but three or four hours at emergency rates would cost the earth."

Mr Bickmore normal charges are £15 an hour. At Christmas he charges an additional minimum rate of £30. "I think I'm quite reasonable compared to some people."

Is it worth going out on Christmas Day? "If a client gets a good job in an emergency, nine times out of ten they'll call me back again." Mr Bickmore is on call 365 days a year and looks forward to the day his apprentice becomes fully qualified. "Next year I'll give him the van and he can go and do it."

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WED/THURS	DEC 29th & 30th	9AM - 8PM
FRI-SUN*	DEC 31st-JAN 2nd	9AM - 6PM+
MON/TUES	JAN 3rd & 4th	9AM - 8PM

*Where permitted. +Closed Scotland Jan 1st

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Four-year mission to net a record

BY TIM REID

Coroner appeals to innermost conscience of killers' friends

Benji's death 'was a brutal assassination'

BY RONALD FAUX

A CORONER appealed yesterday to the people shielding the killers of Benji Stanley, the 14-year-old Moss Side boy, to name those involved in the "assassination".

Benji was shot as he queued in a fast food takeaway in the district of Greater Manchester last January. Leonard Gorodkin, the Manchester coroner, said: "It is horrific to think that despite this brutal murder of an innocent, people are staying silent. I hope what I say will reach someone's innermost conscience and he or she will contact the police.

"It is appalling that a young man starting out in life who was apparently well-liked should be cut down like this. He was a young man going about his normal life, getting some food with a friend and he was brutally murdered.

"The indications are that it was basically an assassination. I hope the publicity engendered by this inquest will prompt somebody to appreciate how horrific this was."

Mr Gorodkin recorded a verdict of unlawful killing. The hearing was told that Benji was shot in the heart by a man with a shotgun. He also had injuries to his face and leg.

The killer and an accomplice had drawn up in a silver Rover saloon outside Alvino's Tattie and Dumplin' shop. The gunman walked up to the shop and fired one or two shots through the window at Benji. He entered the shop and shot the injured boy again in the chest. He died almost instantly.

Det Supt Terry Smith told the inquest: "There have been many conflicting accounts and there is still no clear picture as to what happened. We want to reach out for the one person who knows what happened and ask him to provide the key." He said Benji, who lived with his adopted mother, was not involved in any gangs or crime.

Tito Gunning, 16, who was with Benji, said that a version of events and a description of the gunman he gave at the time were made up. Another witness, Paul Walker, did not appear at the inquest. In a statement read out at the hearing, Mr Walker said he did not see the gunman. Angela Smith, 15, said the two killers were dressed in dark clothing and wore baseball hats and bandanas over their faces.

Mrs Stanley wept as she described how she had heard the shots. "I heard these noises which were the shots and then somebody came to me and said there was trouble in the shop and Benji's name had been called."

The inquest heard that Benji had begun wearing khaki clothing and a bandana, the "badge" of one of the Moss Side gangs. Mrs Stanley insisted that her son had not been involved with the gangs. Det Supt Smith said that Benji's clothes were part of growing up. "He may have been trying to emulate his peers."



Benji Stanley: mother denies his khaki clothes and bandana meant gang involvement

Baby boy cut in face as mother is robbed

MUGGERS slashed a 14-month-old boy's face after grabbing him from his pushchair and demanding money from his mother, police said yesterday.

The boy had two cuts on his left cheek in the attack on Wednesday night in Moss Side, Manchester.

The 37-year-old woman was walking in Monton Street when she was approached by two men on mountain bikes. One man punched her in the face and the other grabbed the baby from the pushchair. They demanded money and she handed over a purse containing £120. The child was put back in the pushchair before the men ran off.

Insp Steven Bell said: "This was a despicable offence. You can't get much lower than attacking a mother and baby.

"We believe a knife or some kind of weapon was used. But it was dark and none was seen."

The two men were described as being of mixed race. The first was about 18 or 19, 5ft 5in tall, with shaved black hair and a thin moustache. He wore a dark jacket and dark shell-suit trousers.

The other man was 18 to 20, 5ft 7in tall, of medium build, wearing a black woollen hat with the letter X on the back, and dark trousers.

Mugger admits 959 offences

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A TEENAGER whose record 959 crimes topped the Old Bailey's league table of offences was jailed for ten years yesterday.

Duane Daniels, a 19-year-old crack cocaine addict and heavy drinker, carried out the crimes to satisfy his £300-a-day craving for drugs.

He led a gang of young muggers, known as the 28 Posse, through the streets of south London. Gang members had a special mark shaved in their closely cropped hair as an identifying sign.

Daniels, of Brixton, pleaded guilty to a sample selection of nine offences but asked for 600 burglaries, 130 muggings and 220 thefts from cars to be considered. It was the highest number of offences heard in a single case at the Old Bailey. Daniels was handcuffed to a prison officer in the dock and flanked by three other officers as Judge Rucker said: "My clear duty is to protect the public from a very dangerous young man."



Daniels: described as a "vicious" robber

As he went to the cells before beginning his jail sentence, Daniels grinned and winked at the public gallery.

Psychiatric reports disclosed that on an average day, he smoked half an ounce of cannabis, took 20 rocks of crack at an average cost of £20 a rock, drank ten pints of extra-strength lager, took two doses of LSD and downed a quarter bottle of spirits and handfuls of tranquillisers.

The judge described Daniels, who was jailed for three and a half years in 1991 for a string of similar violent crimes, as a "vicious" robber.

In one raid on a veterinary surgery, he forced a woman to reveal the pin number of her credit card by threatening to cut off her guinea pig's head. In another, he repeatedly stabbed a man in the legs to get him to reveal his credit card details.

Andrew Hill, for the defence, said Daniels became addicted to drugs at 13 and ran wild when he was expelled from various schools. His crimes spanned six months after escaping from a custody centre at Portland, Dorset, in November last year.

Daniels boasted to the police on his arrest: "Our robberies involve much more violence than just punches."

Stefan Kiszko, a man cheated of the will to live

BY LIN JENKINS

STEFAN Kiszko, freed 22 months ago after 16 years' wrongful imprisonment for the murder of an 11-year-old girl, died yesterday at his home.

Friends said that Mr Kiszko, who had below average intelligence, never recovered from the injustice he suffered. He was still awaiting full compensation for the time he spent in prison for a crime he did not commit. He was found by his mother Charlotte, who had campaigned tirelessly for his release. Police said there were no suspicious circumstances.

Mr Kiszko, 41, of Rochdale, Greater Manchester, was convicted of the murder of Lesley Molseed, whose body was found on moorland near his home three days after she vanished. She had been stabbed and sexually assaulted. At his trial, it was said that he had confessed to the killing. When freed by the Court of Appeal in February 1992, it was found that forensic evidence proving his innocence was not produced at the original trial.

The Crown Prosecution Service is still considering what action to take after an enquiry into the way the case was conducted. Another man has since been arrested for the killing, but police said there was insufficient evidence to prosecute.

Charles Turner, a family friend, said yesterday that Mr Kiszko had remained subdued after his release and frightened by the outside world.

"He would just sit around the house for most of the time. He had no interests. It was as simple as that. After being released, Stefan could not rouse himself and never recovered."

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PEACE OF MIND, AROUND THE CLOCK.

Escaper found in hospital

BY STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A PROSTITUTE and a taxi driver who saw Tony Pilditch, the Broadmoor fugitive, while he was at large in London were urged by police yesterday to come forward.

Thames Valley police are also investigating where Pilditch found money to enable him to spend a week living under cover in London. He spent £120 hiring a taxi to cruise for a prostitute whom he took back to his room in north London. Police are also trying to find one of the hotels he used.

Last night, Pilditch was back in Broadmoor after being found at the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead, north London, where he was having heart treatment. After four days in the hospital under an assumed name, he was recognised by another patient.

Pilditch, convicted in 1985 of assault and murdering a woman, escaped a week ago while on a shopping trip with prison officers in Reading. Det Chief Insp Charles Nelson said yesterday he had gone into a nearby store after giving his escort the slip and bought a hat and coat.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

The winners and losers of 1993

Christmas will have an extra fizz for one well-established City family. They will be toasting the £267m gain they made in 1993. By contrast another well-known dynasty will be drowning their sorrows after almost £700m has been wiped off their collective stock-market fortune in the past 12 months.

Who are this year's biggest winners and losers? Find out in The Sunday Times on Boxing day

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Tree and treats add pounds to price of family Christmas

BY ROBIN YOUNG

CELEBRATING Christmas will cost the average family more than five and half times as much this year as it did 20 years ago. The increased expense since last year alone amounts to £11.64 (plus a notional ½p), bringing the total bill for festivities for two adults and two children to an estimated £193.93½. In 1973, the total was said to be just £34.89½.

The figures are calculated according to an index devised by Baroness Oppenheim-Barnes, a former consumer affairs minister and National Consumer Council chairman.

As the Conservative MP Sally Oppenheim, she claimed in 1977 that under a Labour Government the cost of Christmas had doubled since 1973, and produced a costed shopping list to prove it. *The Times* has recosted the same items regularly since 1978, revisiting the same north London supermarket to compare prices.

Many things have happened to complicate the calculations in the intervening years — not least the abolition of the halfpenny, which still features in the sums because of unit pricing. Manufacturers no longer favour 40oz Christmas cakes, or even 1½lb puddings. Our 1½lb pudding is therefore as notional as the halfpenny, based on the price per pound of 2lb puddings. Buying one weight 1lb and another weighing 8oz would have put the bill up by an extra 52p.

The bottles of spirits — now the supermarket's own brand — are 5cl smaller than in 1973, when the standard size was still 75cl. The single pint of beer, always rather an anomaly when compared with the average family's supposed consumption of three bottles of spirits, is based on the supermarket's unit price for cans of traditional bitter.

The Christmas tree is specially expensive this year, because our shop, which stopped selling them for a number of years, has resumed with some particularly fine, ready-mounted, non-needle dropping specimens. At market stalls nearby it is still possible to buy more traditionally scraggy affairs at £1 a foot.

None of the toys priced by *The Times* when we first took over the calculation in 1978 is still sold, so we have priced what we hope is a similarly typical selection designed to please today's youngsters.

The complete figures for 1973 and 1993 are listed in the chart.

Philip Howard, page 14
Leading article and Letters, page 15
The Times carol Weekend, page 7

COST OF CHRISTMAS

	1973	1993
Turkey, 14lb fresh	£7.06	£13.86
Mince pies, 6	12p	59p
Christmas pudding, 1½lb	34p	£2.82
Christmas cake, 40oz	90p	£4.50
Brussels sprouts	12p	52½p
Potatoes, 3lb	7½p	30p
½lb of chocolates	40p	£1.49
Assorted nuts, ½lb	17p	49½p
Christmas tree, 5ft	60p	£25.00
Tree lights	99p	£6.99
Tinsel	60p	£1.45
Christmas crackers	49p	£4.49
Bottle of gin	£2.45	£8.95
Bottle of whisky	£2.39	£8.95
Bottle of brandy	£4.44	£9.59
Pint of beer	19p	69½p
24 Christmas cards	60p	£2.49
5 sheets wrapping paper	15p	59p
Postage, first class x 24	84p	£6.00
Toys and games	£10.95	£81.16
Parcel post, 4 x 2kg	£1.08	£13.00
Total	**£34.89½**	**£193.93½**

To every parent, a little miracle

Credo

Richard Harries



A traditional Nativity scene, which is a reminder of society's duty to all children

On a traditional icon of the Nativity there is, in addition to the familiar characters, an unusual scene at the bottom right-hand corner. Two young women are shown bathing a baby.

There is no mention of this scene in the gospels. However, in the document known to us as the *Protoevangelium* of James, dating from the 2nd century, much is made of the role of midwives. The function of the midwife is also made quite clear — it is to witness that Mary is still *virgo intacta*.

On the icon, however, the midwives are not there giving evidence: they are washing the newborn babe. It is clear that the iconography of this was taken over from pagan depictions of the birth of gods and great men. We have a similar scene for example in Paphos, Cyprus, depicting the birth of Dionysius and another in Beirut showing the birth of Alexander the Great. When Christianity became the established religion of the Roman empire, it took over royal imagery. It was as natural to associate the birth of Jesus with this scene as it is for us to associate royalty with a crown.

So the scene has had different meanings at different times. One of the few good points about a deconstructionist approach to literature and art is that it encourages us to use our creative imagination in interpreting what is before us without being tied to previous meanings.

The presence of those two women at the birth of Jesus is highly significant today. First, it represents the preciousness of every child. Our culture is sickened with stories of children being abused or in turn being violent to others. Yet every child begins as a little Christ, a miracle. If our society is to get out of its awful mess we need to devote all the resources we can to babies and children.

Second, Mary is not alone. While she lies on her pallet exhausted, the two women care for the babe.

It is no good simply lamenting the breakdown of the traditional family, hoping it will one day come back. We need to take all the steps we can to support mothers (and fathers) of all kinds. In Oxford, for example, we have Parentline, Homestart and a network of family nurturing which helps people come to terms with the way they have been nurtured so they may be better able to nurture their own offspring.

Those two girls beside Mary suggest to me that wider community which today has such a vital role in nurturing and supporting parents and their young children, children who are Christ in embryo.

Richard Harries is Bishop of Oxford. His Art and the Beauty of God *has recently been published by Mowbray.*

Pet charity appeals to owners old and new

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY

THE RSPCA issued its seasonal warning yesterday about the abandoning of pet dogs and cats.

The society said some owners apparently could not be bothered to find kennels or a cattery while they went on holiday, while others were happy to get rid of older animals in expectation of receiving younger replacements as Christmas presents.

Glen Merton, an RSPCA inspector, said: "This sort of cruelty is totally unnecessary. If people would only ring us, we could try to find a home for unwanted pets. Dumping them is just barbaric."

Cases the society has had to deal with recently include a year-old dog abandoned in the back streets of Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, which was so emaciated that it had to be destroyed. Another owner left his dog tied up overnight to a fence outside the society's biggest stray animal centre in Chobham, Surrey. A tabby kitten was left in a plastic bag in woods.

The animal welfare organisation is repeating its A Pet is For Life campaign this Christmas and urges people not to give dogs and cats as gifts. Every spring, there is a surge in the number of abandoned animals as people dump pets they were given in December.

Tony Glue, manager of the Chobham centre, said: "Far too many people do not realise what keeping a pet entails. It takes about two months for the novelty to wear off. They go out to work and leave their dogs alone all day and then wonder why the animals chew the furniture and never become house-trained."

☐ Bruce Steadman, 31, who kicked his eight-week-old kitten to death after a drinking session, appealed at Hove Crown Court yesterday against a six months' jail sentence and life ban on keeping all pets, even a goldfish or a budgerigar.

Steadman, unemployed, of Eastbourne, East Sussex, had his jail sentence cut to four months, which he has already served, and the life ban cut to 15 years, but it will still apply to all pets.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

Hectic dash for festive feast

BY LUCY BERRINGTON

THE run-up to Christmas has been hectic in the food departments: Harrods has sold 35,000 hampers, 75 tonnes of Christmas pudding and 20,000 bottles of champagne.

The fruit counters are packed with good-quality festive produce. Satsumas are 5-14p each and fresh cranberries £1.75 to £2.50 per 8oz punnet.

Vegetables are good value, with Brussels sprouts 25-45p a lb, carrots 15p-25p a lb and parsnips 30-45p a lb.

Demand for fish will be high, as will prices. Prime species are in good supply, with sea bass from £6 a lb and turbot from £4.50 a lb. Expect to pay £3 a lb for fresh salmon cutlets and £8.50 a lb for smoked. The best buy is smoked sprats at £2.30 a lb.

Some Christmas meats are suffering the traditional price hike. Goose is increasingly popular and in fairly short supply, selling at £2.88 per lb, oven-ready, from a farm, or £1.65 a lb from a butcher.

Beef is down in price. Most pork cuts are also good value.

Best advertised buys:

Co-op: Ardennes pâté, £1.29 for 300g; prawns £2.39 for 400g; Milk Tray £3.59 a lb; trifle £1.55 for 397g; White Horse whisky £9.55 for 70cl.

Harrods: Fresh American striped bass £4.50 a lb.

Iceland: Brussels pâté £1.39 for 450g; cooked lobster £2.99 for 250g; pastry vol-au-vents £1.85 for 36; white chocolate gateau £2.99; Christmas pudding £2.79 for 750g; sage & onion stuffing 89p for 2x6oz; Lambrusco Bianco/Rose £2.99 for 1½l.

Safeway: Frozen turkey 59p a lb; frozen cocktail prawns £2.49 for 450g; blue stilton £1.99 a lb; mince pies 98p for 12; double cream 54p for 284ml; Sauvignon red £1.99 for 75cl; claret £2.49 for 75 cl.

Sainsbury: Smoked salmon £2.99 for 115g; French brie £1.99 a lb; sparkling grape juice £1.05 for 750ml; Foster's draught £6.69 for 12x440ml; Leibfraumilch £1.99 for 75cl.

Tesco: Yorkshire ham 57p per ¼ lb; whole carp £2.79 a lb; raspberry pavlova £1.59; mincemeat £1.15 for 822g; broccoli 95p for 450g; Pepsi 67p for 2l; Hofmeister lager £10.99 for 20x500ml.

Waitrose: pork chipolata 69p for 8oz; traditional sausagemeat £1.19 a lb; fresh dressed crab £2.49 each; cooked crevettes £5.95 a lb; asparagus £1.89 for 250g; avocado 59p each; assorted dips £1.59; lemonade 52p for 2l.

Dancing ladies step up cost of 12 truly lovely days

BY ROBIN YOUNG

THE price of true love is three and a half times more than in 1973. Anyone sufficiently infatuated to present their beloved with the gifts in *The Twelve Days of Christmas* would have to lay out £9,910.48. In 1973, when the figures were first compiled, the total was a comparatively modest £2,816.80.

The Times has monitored this most temperamental of economic indicators ever since. The greatest part of the damage this year has been inflicted by the dancing ladies.

The company from which we notionally hired our bevy of ballerinas no longer has enough to fill the bill, so at the suggestion of Equity we have agreed to hire first-year members of the *corps de ballet* from the Royal Opera House. The Equity negotiator insists they cannot be hired just for the two days but must be paid for a 33-hour week, to include rehearsal time and allow them to attend class. That hikes the dancers' charges at £241 a head to £2,651.

We gave up full-standard pear trees years ago. In 1973 they were £4.50. Now a mere bush costs £17. Partridges are £4.50. Turtle doves have always been a problem, since they are a protected species. Similar types can be had from pigeon fanciers for £30.

For years we had to resort to taxidermists for stuffed colly birds, which we traditionally interpret to be blackbirds, but this year we have found a new supplier of captive bred specimens. Roger Caton, consultative administrator for the British Bird Council, sells them at £20 each.

The rest of the bill: oven-ready French hens £4.50, gold rings £19.95, swans and geese adopted through the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust at £25 and £20 each respectively, milkmaids for the agricultural minimum wage of £138.31, drummers and pipers at £25 each a session, lords a-leaping for a daily allowance of £31 each.

OPEN 26th December

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KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Alexander the Great

AFTER his triumph in the Belgrade tournament, the Ukrainian grandmaster Alexander Beliavsky is powering ahead in the PCA World Championship Qualifier in Groningen. In the fourth round, he inflicted defeat on the Latvian grandmaster Alexei Shirov. After four rounds Beliavsky, the sole competitor with four wins, is clear of his nearest pursuers.

Seven players will qualify from Groningen for the next stage of the world championship. Those most favourably placed in the hunt for the seven qualifying places are Beliavsky with four points followed by Michael Adams (England), Vishy Anand (India), Evgeny Bareev (Russia), Joel Benjamin (USA) and Sergei Tiviakov (Russia) with three points. The former British champion Julian Hodgson is also well placed with 2.5.

In the following complicated game, Beliavsky negotiated his way through a minefield of traps to score the full point. The key to his victory came on move 27 with a knight sacrifice. If Black accepts with 27 ... Kxf5 28 Ne3+ Ke6 29 Kxe4 with an extra pawn.

White: Alexander Beliavsky
Black: Alexei Shirov
Groningen, December 1993

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	e6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	Nc6
6	Ndb5	d6
7	Bf4	e5
8	Bg5	a6
9	Na3	b5
10	Bxf6	gxf6
11	Nd5	f5
12	Bd3	Be6
13	Qh5	Rg8
14	g3	Nd4
15	c3	fxe4
16	Bxe4	Bg4
17	Qxh7	Rg7
18	Qh6	Nf3+
19	Ke2	Ng5+
20	f3	Nxe4
21	fxg4	Qc8
22	Qe3	Qxg4+
23	Of3	Qxf3+
24	Kxf3	f5
25	Nc2	Kf7
26	Nce3	Ke6

Diagram after Black's 26th move



27	Nd5	Ng5+
28	Kg4	Rf7
29	Rhf1	Ne4
30	Rad1	Raa7
31	Nde3	Rad7
32	Kf3	d5
33	g4	Bc5
34	h4	Nf6
35	Rde1	b4
36	Re2	bxc3
37	bxc3	Bxe3
38	Rxe3	Ne4
39	Kg2	Rc7
40	Rb1	Rb7
41	Rb3	Nd2
42	Rxb7	Rxb7
43	Re2	Nb1
44	Rc2	Na3
45	Rf2	Nb1
46	g5	Nxc3
47	g6	Rd7
48	g7	Kf7
49	h5	Kg8
50	h6	Kh7
51	Ne3	Black resigns

Winning Move, page 32

نسخة من الأصل

هكذا من الاصل

Armouries show gives glimpse into the future


JOAN RUSSELL

Bob Wheller, a Royal Armouries designer, checks an Elizabethan helmet in the Gloriana exhibition being presented at Leeds City Museum until January 26. The free display offers a foretaste of the Royal Armouries' £42.5 million museum, scheduled to open in Leeds in 1996. For Gloriana opening times, telephone 0532 478391

Storms rip off blades and force wind farms to close

BY NICK NUTTALL AND GILLIAN BOWDITCH

■ Structural failure of turbine blades in severe weather will be examined by MPs assessing the impact of wind farms

HURRICANE force winds have led to the closure of three of Britain's biggest wind power farms, triggering fears that one of the most promising forms of renewable electricity is technically unsound.

An investigation was continuing yesterday at the sites, two in Wales and one in England, after gusts of more than 100mph ripped blades off turbines. The Welsh select committee announced that it, too, would be studying the incidents as part of a wider examination of the environmental impact of wind farms.

The sites affected by closure use British-built turbines made by the Wind Energy Group, part of Taylor Woodrow Construction, which took sole control after British Aerospace sold out last year. Other wind farms, of which there are a total of 19 operating, have been unaffected by the weather. They mainly use Danish or Japanese turbines.

The incidents occurred on the nights of December 8, 9 and 19. Three turbines broke at Cemmaes, Powys, a 24-turbine farm built at a cost of £9 million and opened last year by David Hunt, the former Welsh Secretary. A fourth turbine was lost on December 19 in less stormy weather. Engineers suspect the machine had been weakened by the previous gales.

In an unrelated incident, a turbine fell off at the 22-turbine Cold Northcott farm in Cornwall on December 10 after a failure to follow proper maintenance procedures.

Dr Peter Musgrove, of National Wind Power, a consortium of National Power and Taylor Woodrow, yesterday confirmed that all its sites with British-built turbines had been switched off, including the 22-machine farm at Llangwyryfon, Dyfed. The company, which generates nearly 20 megawatts at the sites, is estimated to be losing £750,000 in revenue each month.

Dr Musgrove, who said that at no time had members of the public been at risk from falling blades, described the conditions in mid Wales on the night of the main gales as expectional. "One of our engineers who was out that night drove round a corner and found a barn in the road. Data from the nearest meteorological station indicate that these gusts are seen only once in 25 years. But having said that, if everything had performed as it should have, there should have been no damage."

The main casualty may be Britain's turbine manufacturing industry, under threat from overseas makers such as Bonus, Mitsubushi and Vestas. A spokesman for the British Wind Energy Association said: "It is not good news for WEG. They will be looking very hard at what went wrong."

Dr Musgrove was more circumspect. "It will hurt WEG just as much as an aircraft manufacturer when a plane comes down ... turbines will have modifications and will be all the better for these. We hope to start the farms in the new year."

Overseas makers had enjoyed government incentives for many years, which had allowed them to develop greater experience in building and operating turbines commercially. "In Britain, the wind power market was non-existent until privatisation of the electricity industry."

Britain's biggest experimental wind generator is due to be demolished. The 75-metre tall turbine at Burgar Hill, Orkney, was opened in 1987 at a cost of £14.5 million. But cracks developed a year ago in a 60-metre blade and generation stopped.

Actor backs speech appeal


Jacobi: "Speech problems insidious"

BY RUTH GLEDHILL

THE actor Derek Jacobi yesterday appealed for donations to Afasic, a charity that helps children and young adults to overcome speech impairments. Jacobi, currently playing Macbeth at the Barbican in London, gained an insight into the world of speech difficulties when the stammering title role in the television drama series *I Claudius*.

Although the children supported by Afasic are not stammerers but suffer from language and speech delays and disorders, sometimes called dysphasia, all such disabilities can lead to problems with communication and forming relationships.

Jacobi said the difficulty when raising funds for such children was that they appeared physically normal. He said: "They are not in wheelchairs or in hospital beds. They look perfectly happy. They do not have that instant appeal to the emotions. The problem is much more insidious than that."

When they did try to communicate, few adults put the youngsters' difficulties down to a disability, he said. "At best, they are considered lazy. At worst they are considered mentally defective." According to Afasic, more than 500,000 youngsters in the UK suffer a language impairment and many have no physicical or intellectual disability.

Jacobi, whose neighbour has a child with a language impairment, said: "These poor children cannot get across what is wrong with them."

The Times Christmas appeal for Afasic has so far raised nearly £8,000. More funds are needed to support children and parents, fund research and speech therapy and to raise awareness. The appeal will continue into the new year.

The actor said: "My business is communicating, not only my own feelings but also those of an author and a dramatist. Not to be able to communicate on even the simplest level is a poverty just as horrendous as Biafra or Angola."

I would like to help children and young people who have speech and language impairments

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NEWS IN BRIEF

BT savings for patients

Up to £15 million saved on telephone bills will be ploughed into NHS patient care through a deal with BT, it was announced yesterday.

Savings made through BT's Option 2000 plan, which provides reduced tariffs for large organisations, will go toward patient care. The contract was signed by Tom Sackville, the junior health minister, and Colin Green, BT's chief legal adviser.

Lawyer charged

Peter Hedworth, a solicitor, of Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, is to appear before South Shields magistrates in February charged with a £1.4 million fraud after a police enquiry into house conveyancing deals.

Special branch

The police operation by almost 400 officers to ensure the cutting down of a 250-year-old chestnut tree that stood in the way of a new motorway link at Wanstead, east London, cost £100,000.

Lucky escape

Tim Winchester, 21, of Newtown, Powys, escaped with cuts and bruises after a four-ton digger fell off a lorry, crushing his Metro car.

Monk, 101, dies

Father Francis McLachlan, believed to be the world's oldest Benedictine monk, has died aged 101 at Belmont Abbey, near Hereford.

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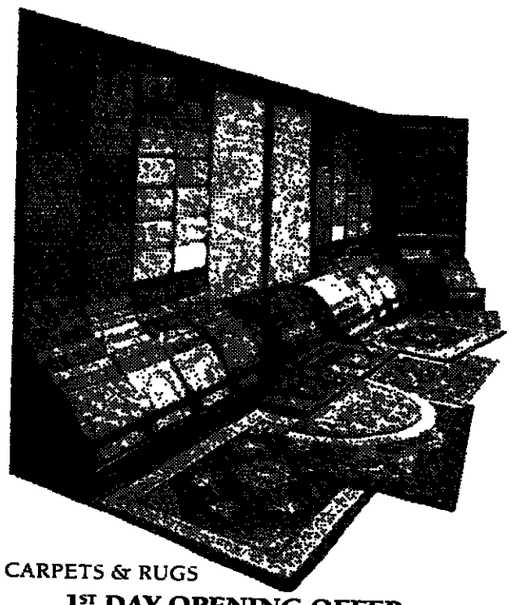
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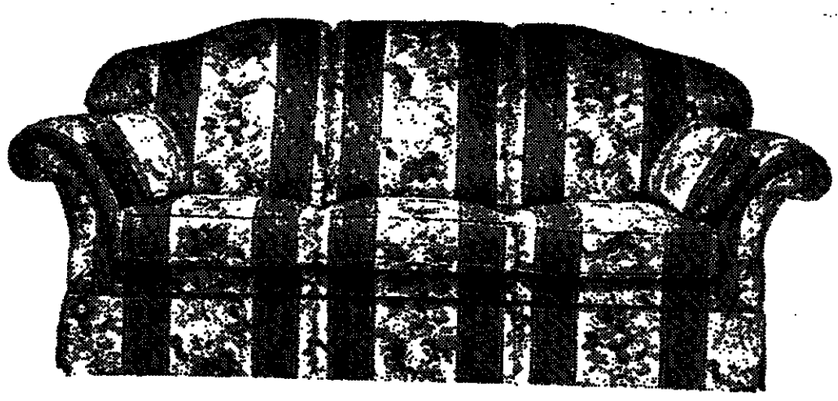
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Captain Magoo leads his troupers on a panto parade



Cinderella: an old story but the Army gives a new twist

Tom Rhodes in Vitez lifts the curtain on a pantomime by the Coldstream Guards, with an officer camouflaged as a wicked stepmother and a butler named Kalashnikov. It is hoped gunfire will not provide noises off



NEXT Monday night Lieutenant Colonel Peter Williams, commander of the 1st Battalion, the Coldstream Guards, based in Vitez, central Bosnia, will forsake mess uniform and appear before his officers dressed as Cinderella's wicked stepmother.

The pantomime acted by various officers will be the culmination of what the British members of the United Nations Protection Force hope will be a relatively quiet Christmas.

Written by the adjutant, Captain Magoo Giles, the stage show in the bunker-like officers' mess in Vitez will include various new characters directly relating to the Bosnian conflict. There will be a Victoria Itez, a Thomasina Lavgrad, a Prince Montenegro and even, it seems, a butler who is named Kalashnikov.

Just what his men will make of Colonel Williams singing "You've Got To Pinch A Bottom Or Two" to the theme tune of Fagin in *Oliver* remains to be seen. The score will be provided by Eddie and the Interpreters, a band fronted by Edin Letic and the other locally employed interpreters who daily help the British in liaising with civilians and militias.

According to Colonel Williams, every attempt has been made to make Christmas on the front line as normal as possible. The 25th, he says, will be "a camouflaged family day" when the men will be given the morning off while the officers man the guardposts. These officers will be woken at 7 am by the Corps of Drums, who will march around the camp sounding the Long Reveille before arriving at the mess for a tot of rum, or Gunfire, a tradition stemming from the Crimean War.

Tradition is at the very heart of the British Army and once a year — in Bosnia it will be on Christmas Eve — the Coldstream Guards remember the heroic deeds performed by their men against the French at the Battle of Waterloo in an arcane ceremony known as "hanging the brick".

On June 18, 1815, in an action which lasted all day, the Coldstream Guards held the strategic road to Brussels from French attackers. The Duke of Wellington later declared that Sergeant Graham of the 2nd Battalion, who had placed his arm across the main gate of the farm at Huguemont, was the bravest man in the British Army. Ever since then, a brick from the farm has been paraded from the sergeants' mess, where it is kept under lock and key, in Sergeant Graham's memory.

It is, RSM Dick McCormick says, a day when the officers or soldiers must try to wrest the brick from the sergeants as they parade it around the camp. "This year we will be guarding it with a Warrior, so I think they may find it quite difficult."

In addition to this, the troops will be holding both the morning carol service and midnight Mass in Vitez. Colonel Williams will also visit his men based in Gornji Vakuf on Christmas Day. Throughout the festive season some of the 2,000 British soldiers based in the former Yugoslavia will have the opportunity to talk to their loved ones via a satellite video link launched by BT. The service will connect Vitez and other areas with both Ripon and Münster, bases for families of those serving in the region.

Many of the soldiers, however, not realising this would be available, have already made home videos of themselves which have been sent to relatives in Britain. In the main, these have been shot around Bosnia and will, perhaps, give their families an idea of the everyday tasks the UN performs in the war zone.

Although the warring factions have agreed a Christmas ceasefire lasting beyond the new year, there is little sign that local internecine fighting will stop during the festive week and most of the soldiers believe that, for whatever reason, they will not necessarily have a merry Christmas.

Around Vitez the mainly Muslim Bosnian army has told a number of British liaison officers that they intend to shake hands with them at the camp by the end of this month. Such talk of victory over the local Bosnian Croats has been heard many times before, but if the Bosnian army is indeed planning an assault, then the festive season is likely to be the busiest the Coldstream Guards have yet seen.

Renewed gunfire cripples hope of peace in Bosnia

FROM EVE-ANN PRENTICE IN BRUSSELS AND JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO

■ *Serbs and Croats tightened the noose round Sarajevo, with no sign of the promised Christmas spirit. The UN says food stocks in the city have fallen dangerously low*

HOPES of a Christmas miracle in Bosnia slipped away from Lord Owen when peace talks broke up with little progress after three days of haggling in Geneva and Brussels, and heavy fighting rocked Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital, despite a seasonal truce that was to have gone into effect yesterday.

"The good Christmas spirit is still missing," Major Idesbald Van Biesebroeck, a United Nations spokesman, said in Sarajevo yesterday. He added that the truce had had no apparent effect on the fighting.

The UN also reported that Bosnian Croat forces had closed the border from Croatia to relief convoys yesterday, effectively cutting off Sarajevo and central Bosnia from supplies delivered by road.

In Brussels, Bosnian Croats grudgingly accepted that the European Union could administer the disputed city of Mostar. Mate Boban, the Bosnian Croat leader, said that "as a means of trying to achieve peace we agreed to European [Union] administration of Mostar".

Although the fraught negotiations brought promises of a ceasefire and agreement of the principles of how Bosnia will be divided along ethnic lines, there was next to no progress on exactly who gets what.

Sarajevo was pounded by artillery, mortar and tank shells, according to UN military observers, in an unusually severe day of shelling on Wednesday. Major Van Biesebroeck said it appeared the shelling was calculated to put pressure on the Bosnian delegation in Geneva. The level of fighting in the city continued yesterday with periods of relative calm followed by intense bombardments.

A spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees said that the Serbs were "blackmailing" the UN and had isolated the city from humanitarian convoys by closing a main road into the city. The Serbs want the UN to repair a bridge that would give them a route for a tank offensive into the Sarajevo suburb of Butmir.

The closure of the road has left the city completely dependent on a tenuous air bridge. A UN spokesman said yesterday that aircrews will fly food into Sarajevo on Christmas Day.

The UNHCR spokesman said food supplies were dangerously low. Enver Kazazic, manager of the city's bakery, said he would run out of wheat flour today unless new supplies were delivered.

European Union Foreign Ministers who met Serb, Croat and Muslim-led government leaders on Wednesday seem exacerbated by the intransigence of the three sides — and the Belgrade regime in particular. Lord Owen wanted to keep the protagonists in one place for as long as possible in the slim hope of a breakthrough, but President Tudjman of Croatia left Brussels on Wednesday night and Mr Boban called it a day and set off for home yesterday.

The entire Geneva circus came to Brussels at the invitation of the EU, which wanted to hear about progress first hand. Lord Owen and his co-negotiator, Thorvald Stoltenberg, continued the wrangling with President Milosevic of Serbia and the Muslim leader, President Izetbegovic, later yesterday. Lower-level talks to try to loosen the deadlock are likely to resume before the new year.

Croats and Serbs have agreed to give Muslims a third of the republic's territory and they agree that they must have access to the Adriatic. But the tougher questions of how this should be done are nowhere near solution, a source said.

The three sides had agreed to a Christmas truce, but like many such promises before it appeared to have been broken.

☐ **Paris:** France said yesterday that it supported the rights of ethnic Albanians in the Kosovo region of Serbia and called on Belgrade to readmit human rights observers to the area. *(Reuter)*

British hostages, page 1





Waters engulf Cologne's old town, where the Rhine rose to its highest in 67 years

Germans abandon homes as rising Rhine invades cities

FROM PATRICK MOSER IN BONN

THOUSANDS of people in Germany, Belgium, The Netherlands and France had to be evacuated from their homes on the third consecutive day of floods as water levels rose to near record levels in many regions. At least five people are known to have died in Germany alone.

At Bonn, the Rhine reached the doorstep of Villa Hammerschmitt, President von Weizsäcker's official residence. The muddy waters also lapped at the £100 million Bundestag, completed only last year. Troops placing sandbags round the building were told it would be unusable for two years if the floods broke through.

Irmgard Schwaetzer, the Construction Minister, told her staff of more than 500 to take an early Christmas break as the river came perilously close to their offices. Roads along the bank were sealed off.

The Rhine rose at Cologne to its highest level for 67 years. Beer cellars and historic buildings in the old town were flooded when the river burst its banks in the early hours yesterday. The flood was expected to reach its peak late last night.

In Koblenz, at the confluence of the Rhine and the Mosel, the giant bronze statue of Kaiser Wilhelm I seemed to stand alone above the floods. The railway line that passes the castles and the fairytale Lorelei rock of the Rhine gorge were submerged.

Citizenship pact gives Russians a vital ally

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

RUSSIA and Turkmenistan have signed important agreements on establishing dual citizenship and the dispatch of Russian troops to defend Turkmenistan's borders with Iran and Afghanistan.

The treaties, signed by President Yeltsin and President Niazov, are regarded as an important step towards strengthening ties between the two former Soviet republics. Andrei Kozyrev, the Russian Foreign Minister, praised the dual citizenship agreement, saying it was a civilised solution to a key stumbling block to relations between Russia and its neighbours in the Commonwealth of Independent States. Mr Yeltsin was made an honorary citizen of Turkmenistan and the first Russian citizen to receive a Turkmenistan passport. "Turkmenistan cannot imagine its future without Russia," Mr Niazov said.

Turkmenistan was the first former Soviet republic to recognise dual citizenship with Russia and Mr Yeltsin said the agreement should serve as a model for future treaties.

Five Moldavians were arrested yesterday as they attempted to enter Romania carrying 3.74 lb of pure uranium and 4.4 lb of red mercury to be sold on the black market, according to customs officials. The uranium and mercury, which originated in Russia, were seized by Romanian customs officials as the Moldavians crossed the border.

Ukrainian authorities and Black Sea security forces on Wednesday arrested six people involved in a plot to smuggle out 10.6oz of a "highly radioactive material" worth £675,000, according to Ukrainian radio monitored by the BBC in London. More than 44 lb of red mercury and 20 containers of caesium have been intercepted this year on the border between the former Soviet republic of Moldavia and Romania.

☐ **Moscow:** Mr Yeltsin suspended the powers of the municipal council of St Petersburg and ordered new elections, ending a ten-week rebellion by the city Soviet, Tass said. He transferred all municipal powers to Anatoli Sobchak, the mayor. *(AFP)*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lombardy League MPs quit

Rome: President Scalfaro had consultations yesterday with the Speakers of both houses of parliament prior to setting a date, probably March 20, for a general election (John Phillips writes).

Earlier the Lombardy League withdrew from the chamber of deputies. Roberto Maroni, leader of its parliamentary group, said his 55 MPs would take almost no further part in parliamentary business before the general election but would attend a debate on a no-confidence motion.

A meeting of league leaders on Wednesday night refused to accept the resignation of Umberto Bossi, the party leader, after he was placed under investigation on suspicion of involvement in illegal financing of his devolutionist movement.

Kohl rebuffed

Bonn: Volker Rühe, the German Defence Minister, rejected a proposal by an aide to Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, that the army could be used to uphold domestic security. "We should continue to separate internal and external security, the police and the army," Herr Rühe said. *(Reuter)*

Soldiers killed

Moscow: At least 110 Azerbaijani soldiers were killed by Armenian forces in Nagorno-Karabakh, according to the Armenian side in Stepanakert, capital of the disputed enclave. Four Armenians were killed and nine wounded. *(AFP)*

Director jailed

Vienna: Helmut Frodl, an Austrian film maker, was jailed for life for murdering a man who was shot and carved into 17 pieces that were found in several dustbins in Budapest last year. Frodl claimed the man was killed by a Russian KGB agent. *(Reuter)*

Out of order

Breda: Five cadets at the Royal Military Academy were suspended after an alleged homosexual orgy in front of other cadets. Homosexuality is allowed in the Dutch armed forces, but the cadets could be charged with violating public decency. *(AP)*

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Israel-PLO negotiators go home empty-handed

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

■ Israeli and PLO negotiators are due to resume talks on self-rule on Monday. In Bethlehem, the two sides are in dispute over the flying of the Palestinian flag

ISRAELI and Palestinian negotiators returned home from Paris empty-handed yesterday, after failing to resolve key differences on a land for peace deal in the occupied territories.

Although talks are due to resume in Cairo on Monday, the deadlock over sovereignty led to an extraordinary test of wills in the West Bank town of Bethlehem, where today's Christmas celebrations were in jeopardy after a dispute about flying a Palestinian flag.

Shimon Peres, the Israeli Foreign Minister, said after the Versailles talks that the two sides had "a great deal of work" to be completed, before Israeli forces can begin their withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho. Although the Israeli pull-out was supposed to have started by December 13, and is due to be completed by April, one delegate predicted that the negotiators would require "several rounds" to overcome their differences.

Officials reported that the two sides had shown flexibility on some issues. Israel reportedly offered to expand the Palestinian autonomous area in Jericho from 35 to 60 square miles, a considerable advance to the Palestinian demand for 80 square miles.

However there was little sign of progress on the main issue that continues to plague the talks, namely the question of who will have authority at the frontier crossings between the future Palestinian self-ruled areas, which border both Jordan and Egypt.

Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, insists that under the terms of the Oslo agreement signed in September, Israel was given control of the borders and that for security reasons it must have authority over who and what is allowed into the Palestinian areas. The Palestinians rejected an offer of "joint border patrols" with Israeli security forces as insufficient, while Israel rejected a Palestinian compromise to grant authority to an international force.

The row over sovereignty was played out in an almost comical stand-off yesterday at Manger Square in Bethlehem, only a day before the first Christmas celebrations in six years were due to start. Elias Freij, the mayor of Bethlehem, threatened to cancel this year's festivities after Israeli troops on Wednesday night took down a Palestinian flag flying outside his office.

The Palestinians, under orders from PLO headquarters in Tunis, responded yesterday by raising three flags over Manger Square, the site of the church of the Nativity, where Christ was born, the main Israeli police station in Bethlehem and the Palestinian municipal offices. "We are committed to turning Christmas into a national celebration for all Palestinians, both Muslims and Christians," Khaled Oudeh, a PLO official in Bethlehem, said. "If the Israelis insist on pulling the flag down, we will raise it again."

Israel insisted, however, that it would not back down. In a telephone call yesterday, Mr Rabin told Mr Freij that Israel would not tolerate the Palestinian flag flying in Bethlehem.

"What does the flag have to do with a religious event?" asked Oded Ben Ami, an Israeli defence ministry spokesman. "We are still the sovereign here, so there will be no PLO flags on public buildings."

□ **Gaza City:** The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, offered to stop attacking Jewish settlers if Mr Rabin disarmed settlers and ordered the army to stop shooting Palestinian civilians.

Hamas, who claim to have killed 13 Israelis since the September peace accord, said they would give Mr Rabin three days to announce a truce. Last night a spokesman for Mr Rabin declined to comment. *(Reuter)*

Three score cheers for the Emperor



Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko waving to wellwishers yesterday

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S Emperor Akihito celebrated his 60th birthday yesterday with a ritual appearance on the Imperial Palace balcony to smile benignly at cheering crowds and offer a series of textbook imperial ways — slow, deliberate and describing an arc of not more than 30 degrees from the vertical.

With him was Empress Michiko, still recovering from a temporary loss of speech after collapsing on her 59th birthday in October. She smiled nicely indeed for the crowd and bowed her head about two inches to acknowledge their get-well cheers.

Prince Naruhito and his wife of six months, Princess Masako, were also there along with Prince Akishino, the Imperial couple's second son, Princess Kiko, his wife of three years, and Princess Nori, their unmarried daughter, 24. The Emperor told the people that he was "profoundly grateful for all good wishes on my birthday. This year, it is my hope that you will look after yourselves and can look forward to a good new year".

Unlike the Queen and her family, the Emperor's family was able to relax yesterday and beam as naturally as is permitted at the assembled press photographers, content in the knowledge that they will never be subjected to undignified photographic publicity of themselves dressed in leotards or poolside bikinis, as they opened the tabloids over their breakfast toast.

Egyptians revel in Christian festival

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

CHRISTMAS celebrations are thriving in Egypt despite the fact that 90 per cent of the population is Muslim and fundamentalists are waging a bloody campaign to overthrow the government.

This week, in the luxury Semiramis Hotel on the banks of the Nile, a choir called Prière Vivante (Living Prayer) gave a carol concert. Other events in the hotel's crowded Christmas programme, typical of those being staged with fierce competitiveness by all of Egypt's five-star hostelries, include a twice-daily visit from Santa Claus, a seven-course Christmas dinner accompanied by a classical trio, and daily afternoon teas with Yule logs and Christmas cake.

On the 26th of July Street, Cairo's equivalent of Oxford Street, the dusty pavements outside shops owned by Muslims and Christians alike are jammed with Christmas trees selling for £E50 (£10) each. At the noisy live bird shop near a mosque, large "free range" turkeys are tied up awaiting dispatch at £1 a pound.

The festivities are not restricted to the six million Coptic Christians who trace their origins to St Mark. At the British International School, Muslim and Christian children have been playing an equal part in carol concerts, with Muslim parents gamely struggling to master words and tunes from traditional English carol sheets. Occasionally the word "king" has been replaced by "pharaoh" to add a little local colour.

British troops fired on in Iraq

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

BRITISH and other international troops in a military patrol came under Iraqi machinegun fire in the first ground attack on allied forces since the Gulf War, it emerged yesterday. There were no casualties on the allied side, a Ministry of Defence spokesman said. "We are consulting with our allies on the way ahead," he added.

Iraq has recently taken steps to improve its image in the West in an attempt to have trade sanctions eased, and it was unclear whether the incident was a misunderstanding or marks a defiant new mood. British military officials were playing down the incident last night as "probably a one-off".

Iraq has denied its soldiers have clashed with allied forces and dismissed the American and British claims.

Pentagon officials said a group of 25 British, American, French, Turkish and Kurdish personnel travelling in a four-vehicle convoy came under small arms and light machine-gun fire from Iraqi positions. They withdrew without returning fire, but when the same patrol was fired on again for a second time later, local guards returned fire.

The attack has mystified analysts. President Saddam Hussein has pardoned several Western prisoners recently and has agreed to long-term monitoring of his weapons programmes and eased tensions with Kuwait by withdrawing Iraqi farmers stranded in the emirate after new borders were drawn up.

Mafia reforges its French link

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

As a result of the arrest of a mysterious European posing as a French furniture dealer, fears have surfaced here that the Mafia may have established a new "French Connection". The man's arrest was followed by the seizure of a record cache of heroin worth $240 million (£160 million).

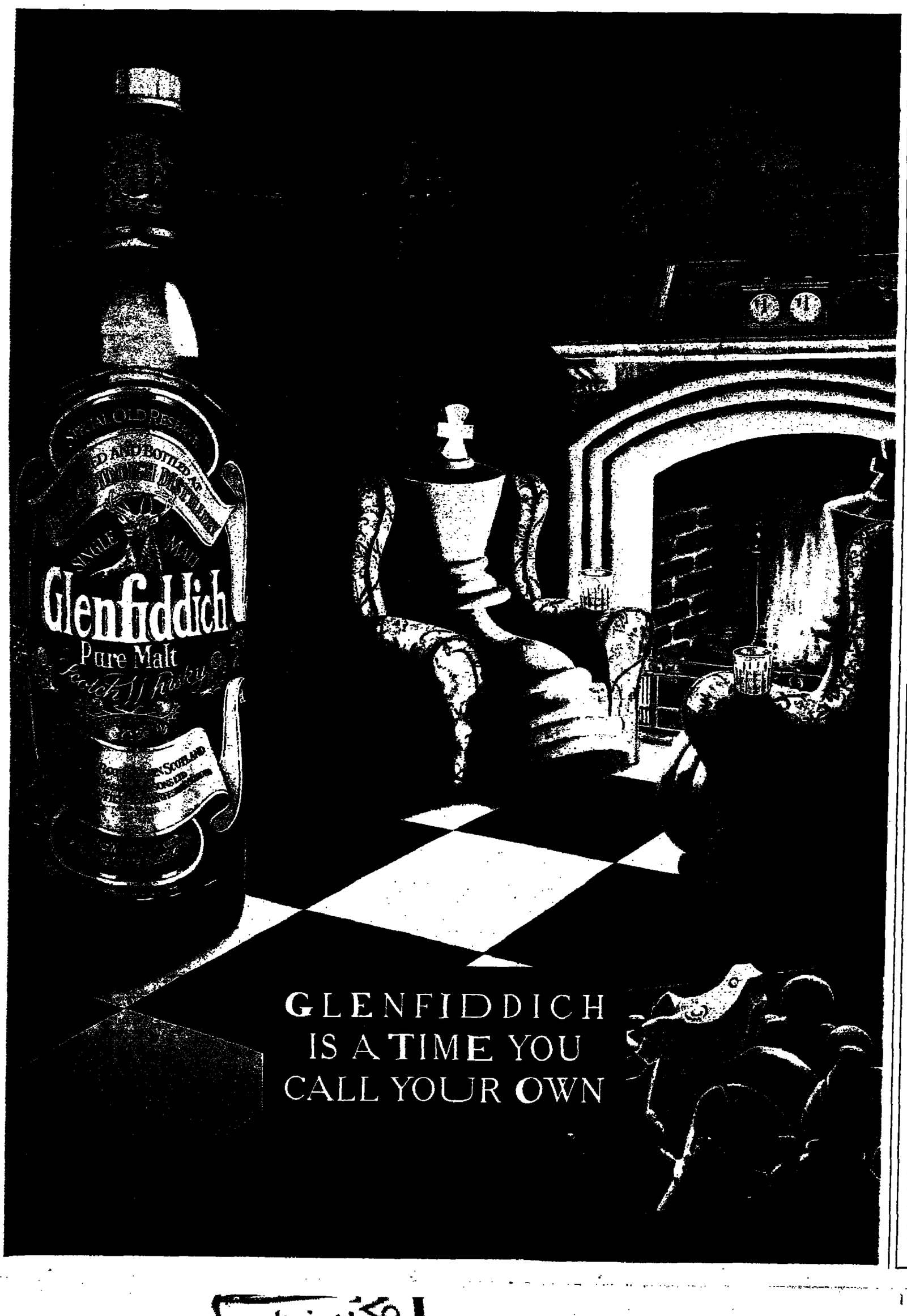
Police thought they had broken the infamous drug pipeline immortalised in *The French Connection*, a book later turned into a film, when they seized an imported car in New York in 1962 and found 120lb of pure heroin. But the recent arrest of the well-dressed French-speaking man in his late forties and the discovery of his meticulous records have led investigators to conclude that New York's traditional Italian crime families continue to be deeply involved in the heroin business.

The authorities had assumed that the Mafia had been forced out of the heroin wholesale trade. They said Chinese organised crime had replaced the Italians as the primary conduit for heroin into the country, and boasted that the traditional Mafia families had been reduced to buying the drug from Chinese brokers and distributing it to street dealers in the same way as many Jamaican, Dominican and black gangs.

A two-year investigation resulting from the complaints of local residents concerned about drug-dealing on their block has now led to a drastic revision of that view. The breakthrough came last month with the arrest of a man who first claimed to be a Paris diamond dealer named Gilbert Barbe and then a furniture dealer called Joel Guichard.

Keeping his arrest secret, detectives examined his scrupulous records and then swooped earlier this month on other suspects and a luxurious 26th-floor apartment on New York's 57th Street. More than 60 people have been arrested.

According to the seized records, the still unidentified European bought the heroin in Thailand and hid it in false-bottomed containers made specially for him in Kiev. The furniture was shipped first to Singapore and then to New York.



مكبّرة من الأصل

هكذا من الاصل

'et charity
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By Michael Hornsby

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Clinton womanising claims throw editors into confusion



Clinton: public taking sceptical view of stories

From Ian Brodie in Washington

NEW allegations of adultery by President Clinton eventually became the story that the American media could not ignore. Yesterday even *The Wall Street Journal* broke its silence on the issue to report, in one paragraph on the front page, that Mr Clinton had denounced accusations by state troopers of his marital infidelity while Governor of Arkansas and of subsequent attempts at a cover-up.

American news organisations have been split on their coverage. Some have gone into overdrive to report the issue, some obviously wish it would go away and have turned almost with relief to concentrate on the intricate and far less spicy subject of Mr and Mrs Clinton's involvement with a failed thrift bank in Arkansas.

Initially, news executives had to decide on the relevance of the charges first levelled by *The American Spectator* and followed up by the *Los Angeles Times* and the CNN television network, all based on interviews with the troopers. *The New York Times* consigned the topic to a seven-paragraph report by the Associated Press, but was later forced to pay more attention when first Mrs Clinton and then the President issued denials in interviews with reporters. Yesterday the newspaper only mentioned the President's comments in a caption on the front-page photograph, but gave them prominent treatment on an inside page under the headline: "Clinton denies trying to stifle charges".

The Washington Post tried to have it both ways. The newspaper had the story prominently on the front page while the executive editor, Leonard Downie, was telling his media correspondent that alleged extramarital affairs were not the subject of the paper's reporting, but whether Mr Clinton had used government resources and power improperly in any connection with his private life.

The conservative *Washington Times*, no friend of Mr Clinton, noted yesterday that he had narrowly confined his denials to whether he misused his official powers. Its front-page headline ran: "President stops short of denying stories of trysts".

The tabloid *New York Daily News* has taken a sympathetic line while still giving the topic banner treatment. Mrs Clinton's denial was greeted with a front-page headline pun calling her: "A real trooper". By yesterday the *News* had found one of the women said to be involved. She denied having an affair with Mr Clinton but said they talked late into the night on the telephone about a problem of hers. The *News* headline: "My phone Bill".



Affairs of state, as viewed by the cartoonist of the *Philadelphia Daily News*

Television networks have been careful to question the motives of the troopers and also of their lawyer, Clifford Jackson, who went to Oxford with Mr Clinton but is now his sworn enemy. "He's been on Bill Clinton's case for years," ABC television's White House correspondent said in an unflattering profile of Mr Jackson. While editors have been agonising over what to do, the American public has shown scepticism and been distracted by last-minute Christmas shopping and preparations. Callers to radio phone-in programmes have frequently criticised the troopers for trying to make money from the media.

A sure sign of editors' discomfort over how to handle the issue has been the absence of any editorial comment. By yesterday, however, Washington's legion of columnists were taking sides. Michael Kinsley, a liberal writer for *The New Republic*, aimed his attack at David Brock, author of *The American Spectator* article, whom he accused of dishonest reporting.

Richard Cohen, another liberal commentator, took the "who cares?" line in his *Washington Post* column. Suzanne Fields, a syndicated columnist, chose to disparage Mr Clinton, whether the Arkansas stories proved to be true or not. "They have already tarnished the moral authority of the young President to speak on the moral issues for which he had begun to find his voice," she said.

White House role, page 1

Washington warns Haiti of tougher sanctions

From David Adams in Miami

AMERICA has threatened Haiti's military dictators with an expanded economic embargo if they refuse to allow the return of democracy, while at the same time expressing private bitterness over the strategy of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the exiled President, who is coming under increasing attack for his handling of the country's two-year-old political crisis.

On Wednesday, army leaders refused to meet military officials from America, France and Canada, who flew to Haiti to put pressure on them to restore democratic rule. They left empty-handed and issued a memorandum that gave the army until January 15 to comply with a peace agreement brokered by the United Nations or risk further sanctions, including a full blockade of the island, adding to an arms and fuel embargo.

While America considers its next move in a policy that is rapidly running out of fresh ideas and resolve, the State Department has turned increasingly hostile towards the man it is supposed to be trying to restore to power. The latest controversy has brought to the surface a long-festering mistrust between Mr Aristide and American officials. Last week Mr Aristide rejected a proposal by Robert Malval, his Prime Minister, to hold a national conference in Haiti. Mr Malval resigned and wrote a stinging letter to Mr Aristide protesting against "the low blows and stabs in the back that you regularly dealt me".

The letter is potentially damaging to Mr Aristide's international credibility after months of diplomatic efforts on his behalf. Mr Malval wrote: "You made the psychological mistake of confusing my sensé of honour and loyalty with weakness. At all times I respected your prerogatives as President, but you never stopped trampling on mine."

In a further sign of Mr Aristide's loss of favour, an editorial in *The Washington Post* on Wednesday questioned his role. "He seems to consider it somebody else's job to restore him to power," it said. *The Miami Herald*, however, called for an American invasion. "There is nothing left to negotiate with this pack of murderers and liars ... Haiti requires a military intervention to return the country to its rightful, elected government," it said.

US steps up tempo in talks with Pyongyang

From James Bone in New York

AMERICA and North Korea have stepped up the tempo of meetings about their nuclear dispute ahead of today's visit to Pyongyang by Boutros *Boutros Ghali*, the United Nations Secretary-General.

US and North Korean officials have met twice in New York so far this week to try to resolve their dispute about the Communist regime's refusal to allow full international inspection of its nuclear facilties, which it is believed to be using to extract plutonium for a nuclear bomb. "Things are inching along with no real breakthroughs and no real setbacks," one US source said.

Dr Boutros Ghali is to cross into North Korea from South Korea today through the demilitarised zone. He has said he will convey to North Korea the international concern about its nuclear programme, but he was not negotiating on behalf of America or any other country.

Cuban rebel tells how 'Spanish double' aided escape from Havana

Castro's daughter begs for her child

By David Adams

IN HER first public appearance since defecting, the daughter of Fidel Castro appealed yesterday to the Cuban government — and to the man she refuses to call her father — to allow her own teenage daughter to leave the island.

Speaking at a press conference in Columbus, Georgia, an elegant but tearful Alina Fernández Revuelta, disclosed how she escaped from Cuba disguised as a Spanish tourist, wearing heavy make-up, a wig and an overcoat, to fool Cuban immigration officials. Asked how long she thought Dr Castro might remain in power, she replied: "I don't care how many days he has got left. All I care about is how many days before I see my daughter again." The people who organised her defection to Spain and the United States said a woman who looked particularly like Señora Fernández travelled to Cuba specifically to "lend" her passport to President Castro's daughter.

Once Señora Fernández, 37, had left the country, her "double" told Cuban police that her passport had been stolen. She was given a replacement by the Spanish embassy and she returned to Spain safely on Wednesday.

Señora Fernández's statement ended speculation that Dr Castro had quietly allowed his rebel daughter to leave the country to defuse a painful family feud. The separation of Señora Fernández and her daughter, Alina Salgada, may prove to be even more embarrassing, however.

The elegant appearance of Señora Fernández, a former model, belied her years of deprivation in Cuba. She explained that she had put on weight during the past two months to help disguise her appearance. Those who knew her in Havana recalled that she had been losing weight and was almost anorexic.

Carl Schmidt, a German author who was preparing a book on Dr Castro's daughter until he was deported recently and his notes were seized by Cuban authorities, said how well she looked. "When I saw her last, about eight weeks ago, she was so miserable. She was thin like salad," he said.

Señora Fernández spoke longingly of the daughter she had to leave behind. "You have to realise the desperation that led me to escape with the prospect that there may be no hope of seeing my child again," she said. She described how her daughter celebrated her 16th birthday on Sunday, knowing nothing of her plans to escape.

"It was the only way to do anything for her, for me to go first," she said. "She pushed me to do it. She said she would never forgive me if I didn't do it."



Señora Fernández appealing to President Castro yesterday to let her daughter leave Cuba. She refused to call the dictator her father after her defection to America

Señora Fernández said her daughter had stopped attending the National School of Arts where she is studying dance, because of a shortage of teachers and a lack of public transport caused by the country's economic crisis.

In a brief telephone interview with a Miami television station, Señorita Salgada sounded cheerful and said she knew her mother was gone, but could not talk more about it. In Havana faxed copies of Spanish newspaper reports about the defection were distributed.

However, Señor Fernández's mother, Natalia Revuelta — the woman with whom Dr Castro had a public affair in the 1950s — was clearly shocked by the news when she was also interviewed. "Call me later," she said. "I know nothing about all this. I'm very upset."

When Señora Fernández arrived in the United States she was granted "parole status," a first step to political asylum, which leads to American citizenship after one year.

An earlier escape plan by boat, aided by foreign friends, was cancelled in October. Her defection from Cuba was the first time that she had left the island since a trip to Paris in 1964. During the 1980s, Señora Fernández was denied permission to emigrate with her Mexican husband, who eventually returned to Mexico alone. She was reported to have married on three other occasions.

Señora Fernández is being looked after by the Valladares Foundation, a Cuban exile group based in Virginia — the same group which a year ago helped to organise the daring flight in and out of Cuba by Orestes Lorenzo, an airforce pilot, to pick up his wife and children.

The foundation's president, Armando Valladares, a former political prisoner in Cuba and right-wing opponent of Dr Castro — was in Madrid to greet Señora Fernández during her brief stay there on the way to the United States.

Señora Fernández gave her American press conference from the home of Elena Diaz-Verson Amos, a wealthy Cuban-American philanthropist. An American immigration official acted as her interpreter. "I have had differences with my daughter," Señora Revuelta said, "like any mother, but I love her and she knows that. She can always count on me."

Dr Castro's sister, Juana Castro, who has lived in Miami since 1964 and owns a chemist's shop in Little Havana, said she was looking forward to meeting her niece for the first time. She said the defection "shows how great a tragedy Cuba is going through, that even Castro's own relatives, his own flesh and blood, reject him. Sad as it is, her arrival in the land of freedom is like a Christmas gift," she said.

Over the past two years Señora Castro said she had received several letters from Señora Fernández describing her life. "The letters were pathetic and tragic and moved me very much," she said.

The US State Department called the defection "one more illustration of the lack of freedom and lack of hope which pervade Cuba today".

NEWS IN BRIEF

Marcos cleared of fraud charge

Manila: A special court yesterday acquitted Imedla Marcos, the former first lady, of fraud in a ruling that could delay Manila's efforts to recover $350 million (£238 million) that Mrs Marcos and her late husband allegedly deposited in Swiss banks.

Judge Garchitorena said state prosecutors failed to prove the case against Ferdinand Marcos's widow. Manila had accused her of violating a constitutional provision banning officials from membership of private firms.

She was alleged to have set up a front organisation, the Maler Foundation, to transfer $10 million worth of United States treasury notes, provided by the Philippines central bank, to Swiss bank accounts. Mrs Marcos was a member of parliament at the time.

Judge Garchitorena convicted Mrs Marcos in September on two counts of fraud and sentenced her to a maximum of 24 years in jail. She remains free pending an appeal but faces other charges. *(AFP)*

Financial post

Canberra: Paul Keating, the Australian Prime Minister, has appointed Ralph Willis, a fiscal conservative, as his chief economic minister. Financial markets reacted calmly to news that Mr Willis would replace John Dawkins as treasurer. *(Reuter)*

Veterans' Bill

Washington: President Clinton signed a Bill ensuring priority treatment for American veterans of the Gulf War who suffer from illnesses that may have been caused by exposure to toxic substances. Their symptoms include skin rashes and memory loss.

Leader chosen

Jakarta: Megawati Sukarnoputri, eldest daughter of the late President Sukarno, has been unanimously endorsed as the leader of the opposition Indonesian Democratic Party. She vowed to abide by and defend the state ideology of Pancasila. *(AP)*

Somalis protest

Mogadishu: Hundreds of demonstrators took to the streets here as another 500 American soldiers prepared to leave the Somali capital yesterday. Several demonstrators carried placards declaring: "We need peace not foreign intervention." *(AFP)*

Nine murdered

Johannesburg: Nine black people died yesterday in political violence in South Africa. The bodies of four men were found in two townships east of Johannesburg. Gunmen murdered five people, including an eight-month-old baby, at Isipingo in Natal. *(Reuter)*

Burke charged

Perth: Brian Burke, the former Premier of Western Australia, and Brenda Brush, his former secretary, were charged with stealing about £56,500 from the state branch of the Labor Party between 1984 and 1988, Perth police said. *(Reuter)*

Drugs case

São Paulo: A man was arrested after he tried to smuggle a suitcase of clothes impregnated with cocaine from Bolivia into Brazil. The man, travelling to Candada, had 11 items of clothes that had been dipped in cocaine and water then dried. *(Reuter)*

Miracle of 34th precinct turns firearms into toys

From James Bone in New York

POLICE in one of New York's most violent precincts have instituted a "toys for guns" scheme in an attempt to get pistols off the streets at Christmas time.

With the backing of a local businessman, police of the 34th precinct in the drug-infested upper reaches of Manhattan are handing out $100 (£67) toy-shop gift vouchers to anyone who turns in a handgun before midnight on Christmas Day. Seven people took up the offer on the first day, with no questions asked.

Fernando Mateo, the owner of a local carpet shop who put up $5,000 of his own money to launch the scheme, said his message was: "You don't have to hurt anyone or commit violent crimes to put toys under your trees."

The first gun turned in came from a couple — identified only as Ray M, 18, and Marie G, 23 — who arrived at the police station with a .25-calibre handgun tucked inside a Christmas card box. Marie said that when she heard of the offer she went to Ray's home in the South Bronx and persuaded him to trade in the gun a friend had left there in the summer. The pair admitted they were apprehensive, fearing that the police might trace the gun to a crime they did not know about.

"You hear about those cases where police trick you," Marie said. "We were thinking we're a bunch of suckers who'll do anything for $100."

Mr Mateo was so delighted with his first success that he personally took the couple to the toy shop to spend their gift certificates. They bought a pushchair for $38.99, a toy train for $26.99 and a video game.

Despite the surge in the number of teenagers taking guns to school, Mr Mateo believes those who respond to his offer will be parents, not children. "Giving guns for toys, maybe some people who don't have money to buy their kids presents, but have a gun, will turn it in," he said.

With American toy shops increasingly stocking violent games, however, there is no guarantee that parents will not redeem their gift certificates for violent video games and toy guns, creating a new generation of street hoodlums for some new gun exchange programme in the next century.

New York already has a programme to exchange guns for cash, and the couple received $75 for their gun along with the gift certificate. Over the past 18 months the New York police department has bought back 3,595 guns — 54 of them in the 34th precinct, which has had 72 murders so far this year.

"Mr Mateo is doing more than wishing for peace and goodwill during this holiday season," said Raymond Kelly, the New York Police Commissioner who inaugurated the scheme.

"He's taking instruments of human destruction off our streets ... we're calling it the 'Miracle of 34th Precinct'," the police chief said.

Desert sin spot tempts the kids

From Giles Whittell in Las Vegas

IT RISES 30 storeys above the Nevada desert and fills a 243-acre site. It has 18,000 doors, 93 lifts, suites three times the size of an average family home, and 5,005 rooms. In case anyone doubted the claim of the MGM Grand Hotel, Casino and Theme Park in Las Vegas to be the world's biggest, a woman from the *Guinness Book of Records* was on hand at its opening this week with a plaque.

Also on hand was a fleet of stretch Cadillacs full of cuddly *Wizard of Oz* characters who are leading MGM's effort to rival Disneyland.

After decades of notoriety for the strip-tease saloons and one-armed bandits of "Glitter Gulch", Las Vegas is trying to re-invent itself as a family-friendly city.

The image lift started in October with the opening of the 2,500-room Luxor Hotel — a glass-clad bronze pyramid whose atrium could accommodate nine Jumbo jets — and continued with Treasure Island (2,900 rooms and an hourly clash of full-sized pirate ships afloat in Buccaneer Bay).

The big new idea at Las Vegas is to keep the kids happy — so that their parents can keep on gambling. "We aim to bring more people to Las Vegas from more places with more money than ever before", says Larry Woolf, chief executive of the MGM Grand. "If they walk past the slot machines, some of it stays. It's a simple marketing proposition".

The hotel's casino is the size of four American football pitches with 165 gaming tables using a million packs of cards, and 3,500 slot machines filled for opening day with 180 tons of coins delivered in armoured convoys. Seven of the machines take only $500 chips.

MGM cast members (as staff are known) are relentlessly cheerful. Their corporate refrain is "have a Grand day" — which failed to console Tony, an Arkansas developer in snakeskin jacket and boots, who lost $6,000 at baccarat in the casino's first ten minutes.



A model of King Looey, MGM's trademark lion, at the company's theme park in Las Vegas

Holidays are the time to catch up on the year's books. **Giles Coren** finds out who's in the middle of what

What are you reading at Christmas?

MALCOLM BRADBURY

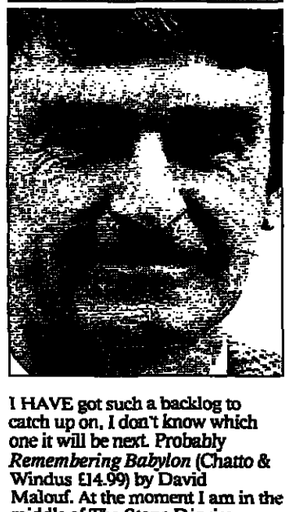


I WILL be re-reading Henry James this Christmas as I am writing a book called *Dangerous Pilgrimages* about the history of transatlantic fiction. It's inspired by reading people like Martin Amis and Julian Barnes who are writing in that way now. I am giving my son Max Beerbohm's *A Christmas Garland* (Yale £16.95), which I have never read so I will also be taking a look at that.

ANTONIA BYATT

I AM reading Francis Crick's *The Astonishing Hypothesis: The Scientific Search of the Soul* in proof form. I am reviewing it for the *New Yorker*, but I want to read it anyway. I'm also reading *Bees of the World* by the entomologist Christopher O'Toole, because I'm obsessed with insects and he is the bug wrangler and observer on the filming of my book *Angels and Insects*. I'm reading a lot of short stories and especially enjoying Kipling and Graham Greene, because I'm planning to edit a book of short stories. I'm also reading some Goethe my German publisher gave me — I always have some poetry on the go and some Karen Blixen in Italian — but that sounds pretentious.

DAVID LODGE



I HAVE got such a backlog to catch up on, I don't know which one it will be next. Probably *Remembering Babylon* (Chatto & Windus £14.99) by David Malouf. At the moment I am in the middle of *The Stone Diaries* (Fourth Estate £12.99) by Carol Shields - as you can see I am working my way through the Booker shortlist. I have also bought Will Self's *The Quantity Theory Of Insanity* (Bloomsbury Classics £10.95) because it says on the back "If a manic JG Ballard and a depressive David Lodge got together, this would be the result." Well, I thought I already was a depressive. But I don't usually get much time to do any reading at Christmas, I'm too busy cooking and washing up."

MELVYN BRAGG

I AM reading *Mister Savage and Doctor Johnson* by Richard Holmes (Hodder & Stoughton £19.99), because I haven't read it yet and I love everything Holmes writes. Apart from that I am reading a book about Gosforth Cross which is where I live for a lot of the time, and I am working on a book set in medieval England.

JEFFREY ARCHER

I WILL be reading *Bravo Two-Zero* by Andy McNab (Bantam £14.99) because so many people have recommended it to me. I always go for "word of mouth books" as well as looking at the critics. I will also be reading Vikram Seth's *A Suitable Boy* (Phoenix £19.99) for the same reason.

BARONESS BLACKSTONE



I AM reading *The Sabres Of Paradise — A Biography of Shamlyn the Avar* by Lesley Blanch (Quartet £5.95). It is a lovely book all about the Caucasus, which is where my latest novel takes place. As I am now read in so many schools and universities, it is important to get my research absolutely right.

I have written a book a fortnight for twenty years, so I don't have much time to read. I have to keep on writing, if you just watch television you go ga-ga.

LORD WEIDENFELD

I WILL be reading Baroness Thatcher's memoirs (Harper Collins £25.00). She is one of the really fascinating people of our time, and I want to find out what makes her tick. In hundreds of pages you cannot help but reveal something of yourself. I find that the book stimulates much thought on the present condition of man.

In this relatively quiet period for me I find I have a lot of books waiting to be read, but the fiction I usually leave till the summer.

LORD JENKINS

I WILL be reading Iris Murdoch's *The Green Knight* (Chatto £15.99) and Robert Kee's life of Parnell, *The Laurel and the Ivy* (Hamish Hamilton £16.99). Why? Because I want to.

NED SHERRIN

I AM reading *The Boys — A Double Biography of Hilton Edwards and Michael Maclammoir* by Christopher Fitz-Simon (Nick Hern £17.99). They are such a fascinating pair. Otherwise I will really be doing more writing than reading over Christmas.

DAVID FROST



I SHALL be reading *The Hidden Landscape* by Richard Fortey (Cape £19.99). It's a very well written book about geology and geological history which I have read bits of already, but it is not until now that I have had a chance to read it properly.

ALAN COREN

I AM writing a novel at the moment about an orchestra so I am having to do lots of research, mainly musical biographies, books about blowing French horns and things. I have been reading Nicholas Kenyon's biography of Simon Rattle (Faber £12.95). To have your biography written by the controller of Radio 3 when you are as young as Simon Rattle is rather impressive, don't you think? Oh, and I'm reading a Kathy Lette novel as well.

ALAN AYCKBOURN



I AM giving my daughter Robert Hughes' *The Culture of Complaint* (Oxford University Press £12.95) for Christmas, mainly because I intend to read it myself. I have just finished *Buffalo Soldiers* by Robert O'Connor (Flamingo £5.99), which is a very black and very funny book about the American army in peace-time Germany. It is quite brilliant, and I was very surprised not to see it on any of the book of the year lists. I also plan to finish Caroline Moorehead's biography of Bertrand Russell (Sinclair Stevenson £12.99), and I have a friend who gives me the new Elmore Leonard every other year, so I hope to be reading that, too.

SIR DAVID STEEL

I SHALL be reading Helen Suzman's memoirs, *In No Uncertain Terms* (Sinclair Stevenson £17.99), because when the history of South Africa comes to be written, she and her colleagues will be found to have played a very large part in the struggle for human rights - and she is very entertaining as well.

THE REV HUGH PRICE HUGHES

I SPEND every Christmas at my community in Mirfield, The Community of the Resurrection. Most of my time is spent praying, and since we are only allowed to speak for three hours each day, mealtimes are spent chatting furiously about what we have been up to during the year. When I do get the chance to read it has to be something light. For something very lightweight I shall read an Anita Brookner novel, and I will also be re-reading Beryl Bainbridge's *The Birthday Boys* (Duckworth £12.99) about the explorers on Scott's Antarctic expedition who all died on or around their birthdays.

FAY WELDON



I ALWAYS read a lot, usually before I go to bed. Christmas doesn't make an awful lot of difference to that. I am reading *The Time Before The War* (Cape £14.99), a novel set in Paris, by Thomas Wiseman, who is a friend of mine. I got married recently to Reg Gadney, and I haven't yet read all of his books, which might be a bit remiss. Although I don't usually read thrillers, I will read his *Somewhere In England*. It will be my duty and my pleasure.

LORD BLAKE

I WILL be reading R.S. Surtees' *Ask Mama* (Sutton £3.95), it does have a rather off-putting title, and it is a slightly unusual bit of Surtees, who was a very great novelist, but I think it is one of his best works. It is a wonderful depiction of the pushing, rather bounderish, society of the 1830s and '40s.

STEPHEN SPENDER

I'M READING Peter Ackroyd's *The Diversions of Purley* (Hamish Hamilton £8.95). It is a very strange collection of poetry and rather like his own personality: learned, abrupt, mysterious, affectionate, and very elegant. It's actually quite difficult poetry, and very surprising. I'm also reading an old paperback that I found in the house called *The Middle of the Journey*, the only novel ever written by the critic Lionel Trilling. It's a very self-conscious and over-written book about the Alger Hiss trial, and it falls to pieces in my hands. I'll also be reading my own new volume of poems, *Dolphins*, because it will be published in February and I find that I can't read my own poetry after it has been reviewed.

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I HAVE just been sent a book from Canada, which has not been published in Britain yet, by Professor Clement Liebovitz, who is an acquaintance, called *The Chamberlain-Hitler Deal*. He has done a lot of work on captured office documents and it really is an excellent book, particularly fascinating considering the new deals in Europe. Another book I am reading is G.L. Simons's *Iraq: From Sumer to Saddam* (Macmillan £25), it provides a brilliant historical background to things that are becoming increasingly important in the light of the Scott enquiry.

ENOCH POWELL

I SHALL be reading *Anglo-Indian Attitudes* by Clive Dewey (Hambledon £25.00), because I am reviewing it for *The Sunday Times* after Christmas.

PADDY ASHDOWN

I AM reading *The Collision of Two Civilizations* by Alain Peyrefitte (Harvill £20). It is the story of the famous McCartney expedition to Peking. Here, from two centuries ago, is a perceptive and illuminating picture of the clash between East and West, which is still relevant today as the West struggles to come to terms with the growing economic and political power of the Pacific rim.

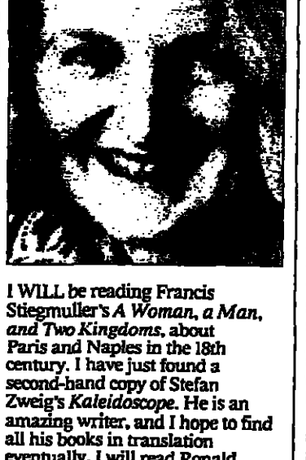
MARTYN LEWIS

I HAVE a stack of books waiting to come away on holiday with me. *Reinventing Government*, by David Osborne and Ted Gabler (Addison-Wesley £19.95), was a best-seller in the United States and was commended by the economic advisors to both Bush *and* Clinton. Many friends of mine over there have insisted that I read it. I'll be reading Gerald Seymour's *The Fighting Man* (HarperCollins £14.99), I worked with him a long time ago as a reporter, and he is simply the best storyteller around. David Frost's *Autobiography* (Harper Collins £14.99) is also coming with me because it's about a time that I remember very well, and I will also be reading Tom Clancy's new book, *Without Remorse* (Harper Collins £15.99).

JOAN BAKEWELL

I AM two-thirds of the way through *A Suitable Boy* (Phoenix £19.99), so I have another five hundred pages to read of that. When I've finished I hope to be able to read my Christmas presents. I have scattered clues around that I want James Fenton's *Out of Danger* (Penguin £7.50), and Gabriel Garcia Marquez's new collection of short stories, *Strange Pilgrims* (Cape £14.99). The Marquez wasn't terribly well reviewed, but I want to read it anyway.

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I WILL be reading Francis Stiegmuller's *A Woman, a Man, and Two Kingdoms*, about Paris and Naples in the 18th century. I have just found a second-hand copy of Stefan Zweig's *Kaleidoscope*. He is an amazing writer, and I hope to find all his books in translation eventually. I will read Ronald Dworkin's *Life's Dominion* (HarperCollins £17.50), which is about abortion and euthenasia, because I am trying to write a book about how people regard life. Apart from that, I will read endless thrillers and all the Edith Wharton that I haven't already read.

LOYD GROSSMAN

I WILL be reading a lot of books, one of which will be Gibbon's *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* for the second time, because it has just been published as a beautiful three volume Everyman Classic (£25). It has such a peerless prose style, and it really is the second greatest story ever told. I usually re-read one book for every one I read new. I will also be reading Marquez's new collection, *Strange Pilgrims* (Cape £14.99). I've read all his books, I think, although I don't understand any of it. I always finish a story and then think I must have missed something, but I enjoy him hugely.

DESMOND MORRIS



I HAVE been travelling so much recently that I haven't had time to read or even think about books for ages. Art books are what I am most interested in and I am hoping that my wife will have bought me some for Christmas. Miro has just had a big exhibition in New York, so I am particularly hoping for something on him.

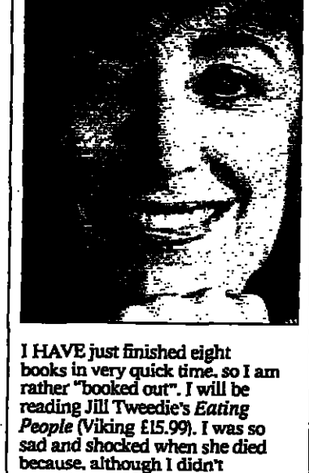
JULIAN BARNES

I COVERED the World Chess Championship for *The New Yorker* so I am planning to read Dominic Lawson's *The Inner Game* (Macmillan £14.99). I will also read Eric Fenby's *Delius As I Knew Him* (Faber £3.25), because I am writing a story about a composer who lives in France, as Delius did. And I will read Christopher Hibbert's *Rise and Fall of the House of Medici* (Penguin £8.99), because I am going to Florence in the new year.

PAUL GAMBACCINI

I WILL be reading *Giovanni's Room* by James Baldwin (Penguin £5.99), because I must have taken it on at least ten aeroplane flights and I have never yet got around to reading it. I am flying to New York on Friday for Christmas, so I'll definitely read it then. Anything else I read will be bought from Dalton's bookstore on 86th Street, which will be my first port of call when I get to New York. I usually buy books there which haven't come out in Britain yet, or never will because they relate specifically to American life.

MAUREEN LIPMAN



I HAVE just finished eight books in very quick time, so I am rather "booked out". I will be reading Jill Tweedie's *Eating People* (Viking £15.99). I was so sad and shocked when she died because, although I didn't actually know her, I had always felt as though she were a friend. She influenced my way of thinking, and made me jump for the papers in the morning in a way that I no longer do. The sadness that there will not be a second volume is implicit as you read the book, and the beauty and frivolity shines through the tragedy. There is a great sense of freedom in it.

I don't think I will be getting any books for Christmas, all they seem to have got me is a pen.

JOHN WELLS

I AM reading Peter Ackroyd's *The House Of Doctor Dee* (Hamish Hamilton £14.99), which I was given for my birthday. It is an old story that I know well, and I will be interested to see how he dresses it up in mysterious new clothes. I am also reading Angus Fraser's fascinating book *The Gypsies* (Blackwell £19.99), as background research for a film about Princess Caraboo. For the same project I have been reading newspapers from 1817, which are full of advertisements for things like hair-restorers "as used by members of the royal family", so nothing much has changed.

JANE ASHER

I AM reading *An Invitation to Philosophy* by Martin Hollis (Blackwell £9.99), really because my daughter is reading philosophy at university and I want to see what she is up to, but I have always been interested, and this seems to be a good, straightforward introduction. I have also bought the new William Boyd, *The Blue Afternoon*. (Sinclair Stevenson £14.99) for something easier to read. I've always been a fan of his.

GERMAINE GREER

I DON'T read for fun. Whenever I finish a novel I always wonder why I bothered to read it. I'm preparing an edition of an obscure 17th-century poet, Anne Wharton, who died in 1685, and whose fortune was used to fund the Whig Supremacy. Her reward was to be buried in an unnamed grave by a husband who wanted the world to forget her. But I found her! I have spent today in the library reading the Egerton Manuscript, and I have discovered something that no one else knows. That kind of reading is my idea of total happiness.

ESTHER RANTZEN

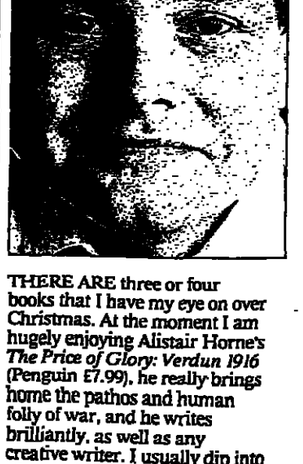
I HAD been looking forward to Sue Townsend's *The Queen And I* (Mandarin £4.99) for ages, but then I found myself on a long train journey and I devoured it in one go, it made me laugh a lot. My mother is giving me Roddy Doyle's *Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha* (Secker & Warburg £12.99) for Christmas so I'm looking forward to that now. At the moment I am in the middle of the Thatcher memoirs, which are a bit like a Christmas pudding, you can't do the whole thing, just a little bit at a time. I am also reading Maureen Lipman's *When's It Coming Out?* (Robson £14.95) which is a good corrective for the Thatcher book, and I like to pinch her jokes for my warm-ups.

BERNARD INGHAM



I DON'T know what I will be reading because I don't know what I will get for Christmas. I am extremely dubious about all these pretentious people who say they are reading books at holiday time. How on earth do they find the time?

MICHAEL DOBBS



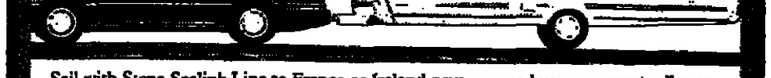
THERE ARE three or four books that I have my eye on over Christmas. At the moment I am hugely enjoying Alistair Horne's *The Price of Glory: Verdun 1916* (Penguin £7.99), he really brings home the pathos and human folly of war, and he writes brilliantly, as well as any creative writer. I usually dip into "Chips" Channon's diaries, they are the classic political diaries of our time, and they feed me with plenty of ideas for my own writing. I will be reading Frank Delaney's *Telling the Pictures* (HarperCollins £14.99), because he is a wonderful guy and a wonderful writer. Apart from that I shall read a couple of thrillers: Gerald Seymour's *The Fighting Man* (HarperCollins £14.99), because he is one of the very best thriller writers around, and *Provo* by Gordon Stevens (HarperCollins £9.99), who I have never read but have heard is exceptionally good.

ALAN COREN

I'm reading Blake Morrison's *And When Did You Last See Your Father?* (Granta £14.99). Christmas is a time when those of us with dead fathers tend to find ourselves recalling them, and Blake Morrison does it superlatively.

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By Tim Reid

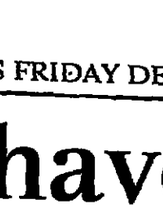
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'I have a gift to help people encircled by death'

The Angel of Mostar tells why she risked her life dodging bullets to drive an ambulance across the front line to rescue the wounded of Bosnia



THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



MICHAEL POWELL

Intrepid, fearless and adventurous Sally Becker: "Even as a child I always felt I was meant to do something. My personality was never geared to a nine-to-five job"

This year's Christmas angel turns out to be Jewish, with very black, spiky hair, intensely dark eyes, a toothily telegenic smile and a talent for the soundbite — "If the UN can do it without me, why don't they bloody well do it?"

Someone had said the UN did not need a Sally Becker in Bosnia. But reason not the need: in the era of compassion fatigue, it is getting noticed that matters, and every headline writer had seized upon the Angel of Mostar from Hove.

In a deeply provincial hotel in Birmingham, Ms Becker cuts a stylish dash in silk shirt and chic black trousers. We know she is intrepid and fearless; she has dodged bullets and driven ambulances under sniper fire to rescue the wounded, a heroine of charity. She is also a woman of 33 with a rackety past, a penchant for adventure and a clairvoyant's prediction to fulfil. And she has beside her, corroborating her stories, the calm, reassuring presence of her family doctor, Duncan Stewart, aged 50, a man anyone would go into a war zone with.

"When I first met Sally she was eight, and covered in spots," says the gentle-voiced Dr Stewart. "Measles." He was a new GP then and knows the whole family well: she was the rebellious one of the four. When she asked him this summer for medical equipment to take to Bosnia he gave her "bits and pieces" and she managed to bring out five injured children from East Mostar.

After that he found himself agreeing to return with her this winter, leading her Operation Angel convoy: he even guaranteed a loan of £50,000 to fund it, bought the first of its fleet of ambulances, and left behind an understanding wife, two daughters, two dogs and a locum.

Astonishingly, the Angel of Mostar herself had never heard of Bosnia until this year. She had been preoccupied on the Costa del Sol, painting nudes — mostly of the actress Polly Perkins — and appearing as an extra on the set of *El Dorado*. Then she came home, saw scenes from Bosnia on television and decided to sell a diamond and sapphire ring, and go. "I felt I could afford to take the risk — not being married, having no children, nobody to abandon."

But why? Self-fulfilment, she frankly says. "Even as a



Dr Stewart: reassuring

child I always felt I was meant to do something. My personality was never geared to a nine-to-five job. Before Bosnia, I was disillusioned with life: are we born to die and turn to dust with no reason behind any of it? After Bosnia I felt I had given myself a reason. I had been totally selfish."

Yet she had also gone out to the Gulf War: "But in the Gulf I didn't save a life. All I did was help to get some people out of Baghdad by negotiating with Queen Noor . . ." How? "I rang the palace and sent her a handwritten fax.

"A clairvoyant told me three years ago, 'you will make your mark on society if you follow your ideals' and said I had a predestined gift to help people surrounded by death and destruction, and I would be called a heroine." Amazing. Then a wonderfully-named astrologer, Viz Peterken of Waldron, East Sussex, produced for £15 a forecast for this year giving dates when it would be risky to go out, which were the exact dates when she was surrounded by soldiers at gunpoint . . .

But who could predict what Ms Becker might have done with her life? She left her various schools at 16 with art A level, went to live on a kibbutz in Israel, managed a nightclub in Tel Aviv. Then she came home to earn some money, but couldn't find a job. "And someone offered me the way. To be a courier, carrying cannabis. I hadn't even smoked the stuff." She was stopped at Gatwick with packages in her boots and sentenced to six months. "It was stupid. I was just an idiotic young woman who always had a slight sense of adventure."

After Holloway, she was sent to Cookham Wood, where Myra Hindley soon afterwards arrived in the cell next door. They met just once; Hindley asked her to help her write her life story. Becker was not a model prisoner. There were fights followed by "withdrawal of association" — solitary confinement. "I thought I was going mad; I was suicidal. Then one of the prison officers befriended me, told me I was attractive and intelligent and ought to see that it was not for ever. So I began to see it as a boarding school, and enjoy the camaraderie, and started to paint again."

Getting a job outside was even harder with a record. She painted, portraits mostly, and travelled; the Gulf, *El Dorado*, Bosnia.

Her father, who runs a finance business, had been discouraging: "Shouting around the house that I was mad, didn't I know you can't get dismemberment insurance for Bosnia. But when he saw me on television with those children, it touched him. He's a very unemotional man, and the first time he ever said he was proud of me was in front of the whole world on live satellite television."

At first, Operation Angel seemed disaster-prone. Two hundred paramedics, nurses, firemen, police, two AA teams, British Road Services etc, had been recruited for the convoy. That they were prepared to follow a stranger like her across Europe into a strife-torn country is remarkable anyway. But on the other side of the Channel the problems began.

"I had driven in convoys with other charities, and thought these professional adults would be fine, driving through France. Instead it was like a school outing. Whenever Duncan and I drove ahead to arrange tolls, disaster would strike. They all got lost. Then when we arrived in Ancona we heard that our coach had crashed." Nobody was badly hurt, but ten volunteers were flown home.

In the end, the volunteers triumphed, ferrying the wounded of Bosnia by ambulance to Ancona with clockwork precision. A spiritual organisation called the Life Foundation had supplied enough sustaining food packs to feed all the volunteers and evacuees. They were also magnificently protected, says Ms Becker, by the "superb English 'gentlemen" of the Coldstream Guards — "brave, bright, calm, efficient, incorruptible, their boots highly polished even when they spend all day in mud".

Ms Becker's talent is chutzpah. One glance at the film footage of her confrontation with an obstructive Spanish UN soldier says all you need to know about her spirit. She would shove a wounded child's face in front of a camera, to get across the urgent need for hospital beds. She can crash through bureaucracy, confront obdurate officials, establish a rapport with people on all sides — "They are all equally horrible. No side is better or worse than the others. Only the civilian victims are touching."

She gained the confidence of Dr Ivan Bagaric, the Croatian military medical chief, and had his written permission to go across the front line and into the pathetic remains of East Mostar hospital; she drove like a lunatic through no man's land under flying bullets at dusk: "I have never been so terrified. Total panic" — only to find the UN blocking her way again.

Now she has seen her name bracketed with those of Barbara Bush and Bianca Jagger — "international personalities!" she says. "But I'm just an ordinary person. What is important is that people out there are reminded that there is a normal world outside, with ordinary people like me prepared to go out and spend time with them. Two hundred strangers left their homes and jobs and security in a safe world, to go out there. I think that gave a lot of hope to Bosnia this Christmas."

She needs money now for Operation Angel II in March, which will be airborne, possibly with Médecine sans Frontières but inevitably with co-operation from the UNHCR which has said some uncharitable things about the "unguided missile" Ms Becker. But the aid trade is always prone to internecine squabbling, and hostile to high-profile arrivistes. "I can't depend on the UN — they let me put my life in danger and then refused to let me go in because *they* wanted to be seen doing the evacuation." Ms Becker says. "I suppose it would be a godsend to them if I was shot. I'm an irritant to them. They make me feel like David facing Goliath."

Yet this week, with the latest evacuees safely in hospital, peace broke out between her and the UN. On Tuesday, *Newsnight* had arranged a confrontation: Ms Becker vs Sylvana Foa, UN spokeswoman. Peter Snow was expecting mutual sniping. But Ms Foa sang Ms Becker's praises — "We could not have done the medical evacuation without her ambulances, and she got the story back into the headlines" — and both agreed they had done a splendid job together.

Mr Snow seemed exasperated: what was this non-adversarial, Martyn Lewis-style good will? The Angel of Mostar had plainly done her bit for the Christmas spirit.

It is not always better to give than to receive

Full of Christmas fears

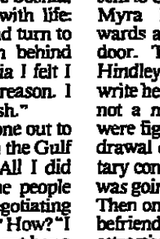
I THINK we should say a special prayer for the recipients of misplaced Christmas kindnesses. This is the time of year when little old ladies, having managed to cross the crowded high street in twice the time it usually takes, are in greatest danger of being scooped up by some fool who will hustle them back to the side of the road they've just come from.

I am just such a fool, but I'm not alone. Me-first pagans, gripped with a seasonal urge to let their light so shine before men that their good works may be seen, can be a menace to the poor and needy. Consider the business of Barnardo's and my own silly self. In my village, there was a tradition of leaving around the church Christmas tree a heap of presents, carefully wrapped and labelled "Boy aged 9-12" or "Girl aged 6-8". Every year, these were dispatched to the local Barnardo's. This little gesture was, of course, subject to Norman's Law of Voluntarism: charitable efforts are dogged by difficulties and tact-traps in inverse proportion to the good they may do — the smaller, the fraughter.

Every year my mother, who was in charge of this venture, would raid the housekeeping to stock up on presents in case the village didn't cough up. She would creep into the church the night before the presents were to be delivered and try, in the dark, to identify the handwriting of those whom she knew from experience thought complicated model aircraft kits just the thing for a physically handicapped child. The unsuitable gifts would be unwrapped and then, to avoid offence, she would re-use the paper to wrap something more appropriate from her swag bag.

When my mother died, a kindly widow took over the job, although I assumed the responsibility for the swag bag to make up the numbers.

The whole dotty business went on for some years until Barnardo's took on a new principal, who was bold and sensible enough to inform us that the children's friends and relations provided them with quite enough presents, thank you, and a donation for new



MARGOT NORMAN

equipment would be much more gratefully received. We then discovered how much the staff had dreaded those Christmas deliveries. Apparently they had to unwrap every darned present to check its suitability for themselves.

IS THIS what St Paul meant by "spots in your feasts of charity"? Others that come to mind include the redundant turkey and harvest baskets. In the first case, a friend of a friend presented herself, as had become her custom on Christmas morning, outside the house of elderly neighbours, bearing a steaming tray of turkey with all the trimmings. After she'd been standing for a while in front of the unanswered door feeling . . . well . . . like the bird on the plate, another neighbour informed her that the elderly couple had gone to Spain for the holiday.

It was even worse with the harvest baskets, another well-intentioned tradition involving children, baskets modelled on the one Red Riding Hood took to her grandmother, and a list of old people living alone. This year nobody had thought to review the list, and a lot of little Red Riding Hoods took baskets to grandmothers who had, so to speak, already been carried off by the wolf.

THINK of all those children who are, at this moment, being moulded into the next generation of spreaders of the good will that boomerangs. All those little homilies around the Christmas tree about how much better it is to give than to receive. It takes a real old pro like Mother Teresa to disentangle the muddles.

Wishing to give her something useful but less vulgar than money, the boss of a big Indian biscuit company once rallied his troops to buy her a minibus in which he quaintly imagined her taking the destitute and dying of Calcutta on outings. At the presentation, Mother Teresa smiled her sweetest smile and said: "Oh, how thoughtful of you to provide the means to bring us all your broken and misshapen biscuits, the ones you can't sell. And a driver too! What a clever way to put an end to the waste at your factory, and to feed my poor people at the same time."

Mother Teresa winked at him when nobody was looking and whispered: "Charity comes cheaper when you ask people what they want first. I would only have asked for the biscuits."

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Philip Howard



■ Dickens still has much to teach us about generosity of spirit

It was a super(market) turkey. He could never have stood upon his legs, that bird. They were frozen solid and would have snapped like icicles. He needed 36 hours to defrost, and his gibblets, stuffed up his posterior orifice in a plastic bag, came to light only when the bag started to leak pink gunge after three hours of roasting.

The bell no longer strikes 12 in modern flats, and we are stingy with the electricity rather than the coal. But the BBC time signal from the digital clock radio serves to tell us that it is time to get our heads down if we are not to see spectres tomorrow. "Bah, humbug!" still says Scrooge. And "God bless us every one," still squeaks Tiny Tim. It is 150 years since Dickens wrote the story that so influences our notion of Christmas.

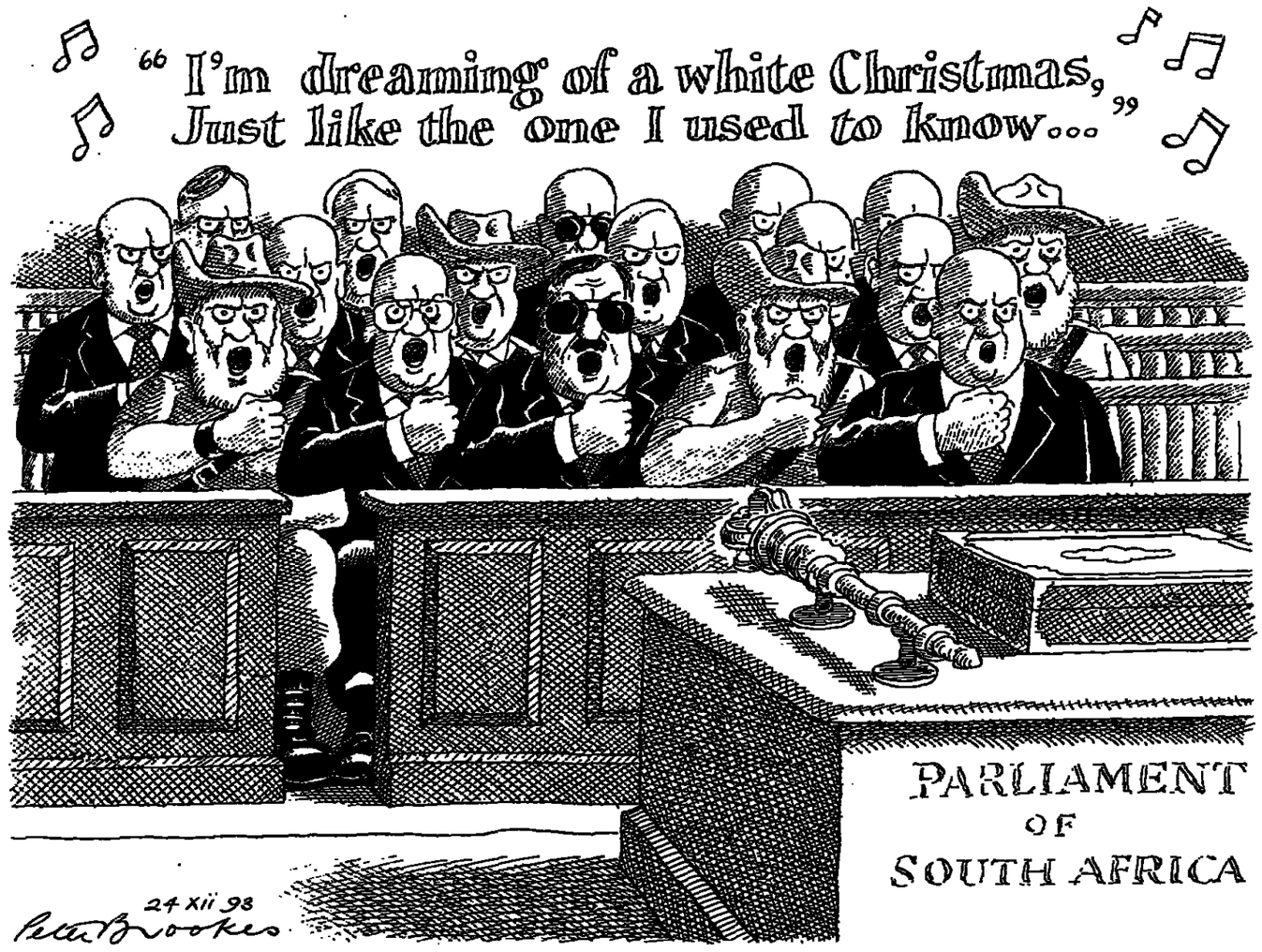
A Christmas Carol is terribly sentimental. In Tiny Tim, it parades one of the most cloying of Dickens's doomed children, shade of his crippled brother, tiny Fred. Sanctimonious spirits rattling chains would upset the Bishop of Durham. The tale is obsessed with money and the terror of going broke, of not being rich and happy, of being thrust out in the cold of the Victorian underclass. It was Dickens's favourite party piece for his readings, and he performed it with an over-the-top mixture of religious mysticism and popular superstition. Its strong populist brew of avarice and selfishness, sentimentality and benevolence, have made it the most popular of Dickens's works. There have been more than 225 adaptations for stage, screen and radio, and 50 different editions are in print in the United Kingdom.

This was the story that obsessed Dickens, with memories of his own precarious childhood. It expressed his strongest emotions: sympathy for losers and underdogs, spectral doom and gloom, fireside jollity of families, and that persistent terror of being left out in the cold. Dickens said he felt as if Tiny Tim and Bob Cratchit were always tugging at his sleeve while he was writing it, impatient for him to get back to his desk and continue the story of their lives. And he wrote self-importantly about this story to Cornelius Felton: "Charles Dickens wept and laughed and wept again, and excited himself in a most extraordinary manner in the composition; and thinking whereof he walked about the black streets of London, fifteen and twenty miles many a night when all the sober folk had gone to bed."

Many of his streets are still there. But Dickens would have been astonished by the bright lights all night 150 years later. He might well have thought that the Mr Blobbies and other modern characters for children were a sad falling off from Ali Baba and Robinson Crusoe, which Scrooge remembered escaping into as a lonely boy, reflecting Dickens's own childhood. He would have recognised and wept for the young sleeping rough in doorways, and would have been depressed that there are still plans to bang up ten-year-old "bad" children in Dotheboys Hall revived. His exposure of the notorious Yorkshire schools for unwanted children did much to end such institutions. He would have raged at those who want to starve future single mothers into celibacy, or make scapegoats of social security scroungers.

The Ghost of Christmas Present still, alas, produces from his robes two abject children, a boy called Ignorance and a girl called Want: "Yellow, meagre, ragged, scowling, wolfish: but prostrate too, in their humility. Where graceful youth should have filled their features out, and touched them all with its freshest tints, a stale and shrivelled hand, like that of age, had pinched, and twisted them, and pulled them into shreds."

Dickens was an extraordinary mixture of the virtues and vices of his characters: secretly amazingly generous, Scrooge-like to his wife, father and family, always terrified of failure, poverty and the dark. *A Christmas Carol* really is sentimental and melodramatic. But even as bone-dry a critic as Thackeray, reviewing it a century and a half ago, after a few objections, wrote: "Who can listen to objections regarding such a book?" We shall always need the generous Dickensian spirit of Christmas, and practical sympathy for underdogs. As his old story says: "I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all year."



Yesterdays and tomorrow

From the highest to the lowest and from snowy slopes to broiling beaches, Christmas is a festival of friendship

Bernard Levin

Many, many Christmases ago, when I was a carefree youth, not the grave, statesmanlike figure you know today, I did a deed of wickedness that I blush to recall; nor is my sin the lighter for the fact that I had an accomplice: my girlfriend. Perhaps it is time for me to own up, reveal the depths of depravity to which I could have sunk in those days, and ask for a suitable penance.

I think we had been dining out, and walking home we stopped before a shop window (this was late at night, you understand), which was most tastefully dressed for Christmas. There were towers of greetings cards, ribbons from which trinkets hung, piles of books arranged in circular-staircase shapes, knick-knacks of all kinds, and of course lots of coloured lights to brighten up the picture. We stood admiring the array, when we realised that we were not quite alone: a handsome cat, obviously the shop's resident mascot, had spotted us from the back of the premises and entered the window and its arrangements; he must have woken up only a moment earlier, and was still stretching from sleep. I should say that he was lean and lithe, and I have always wondered whether what followed would have taken place if he had been the plump and sleepy kind.

I looked at my friend, and we both looked at the cat; we looked at each other again, and yet again looked at the cat.

Now *I* say that what happened next was not my idea; indeed, I have a very clear memory of saying "The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree and I did eat". Be that as it may, my companion had an umbrella; silently, she handed it over to me, and silently I took it. I looked around: there was no one in the street. I rapped on the window with the head of the umbrella. The cat looked up; he had finished his toilette, and was plainly looking for fun. Fun he got.

I traced a circle on the window; he followed it lithely. I swirled the circle into a figure-of-eight, and simultaneously banged harder on the glass; our friend leapt at the shape, and the first tower of cards went down. At the clatter, he whirled round; well, you know what a cat can do by whirling. Another tower of cards, a bigger one, and our furry friend was joining in with a will. Without instruction now, he leaped at the next tower pile, and hit the ribbon; down came the trinkets. He got them twisted round himself, and to struggle free he hit the pile of books; beside himself with joy, he hit the other pile. Down it came, bringing with it much of the rest of the display.

Then I had a moment's fright (the woman who gave me of the tree had for some time been trying to look as though she had never set on eyes on me), because I realised that sooner or later puss would bring down the fairy lights, smash a few, and electrocute himself. Ah, no; this was a wise cat and — I dare say he winked — he brought down the lights all right, but disdainfully stepped over anything that might incommode him in the way of electricity. He inspected the ruins, and saw that they were complete; with something of a shrug, he left the window and sauntered back into the shop. There was still no one but us in the street, but we made all haste to get away.

That, assuredly, was my wickedest Christmas. But if you call it my lowest, I can match it with my highest.

I have written more than once about Sidney Bernstein and his family; the last time I did so was, alas, my threnody for his life, which had just closed. (Sandra, his wife, had preceded him, though she was very many years his junior.) The generosity with which he treated his friends was as quiet as it was full; there were no flamboyant gestures (he was a flamboyant man, but a man of very considerable dignity) and he had unerring taste. For many Christmases the family went high up to the Swiss snows, to St Moritz, taking me with them, and thereby hangs a tale.

St Moritz is, of course, full of hotels, many of them splendid, and the most splendid was (I dare say still is) the Palace; that, anyway, was the one to which the very rich and famous, wanting comfort, went, many arriving there every year from America. Well, Sidney was very rich and famous, and wanted comfort on holiday, but we never went to the Palace; instead, we went to the other great hotel — the one that catered for the rich and famous who wanted no fuss and no photographs, and was cunningly placed half a mile outside the town. It was called Suvretta House, and I hope it flourishes still; I certainly recall the beautiful *but simple* bedrooms, and I thought, and think still, that that is exactly what a hotel should be.

I am no lover of winter sports: I once tried skiing when I was young, and found it somewhat exhilarating but much more alarming, and as for curling it was certainly more boring than croquet, and very much more than bowls. (Mind you, though *I* think bowls boring, I bet you don't know that there is in Britain an annual tournament — there might be many, for all I know — for blind bowls players. How is it done? Sighted helpers call the shots, as it were, saying "a yard to the right" or "not too hard, now", and away they go, another testament to the uncrushable human spirit. I wouldn't call that boring, I must say.)

Anyway, I had many a marvellous Christmas at St Moritz: I would sit in the Christmas sun — which very frequently blazed down so powerfully that I could take off not only my jacket, but my shirt as well; after a time, it didn't seem peculiar to be lolling half naked in a deck-chair with my boots resting on the snow. Then Sidney built a house in Barbados.

Anyone who knew Sidney knew also that he was the most complete and intense architect *manqué* there has ever been. If his feet, when he was young, had not been turned towards the cinema, he would indeed have been an architect, and I believe a great one. He supervised, down to the tiniest item, the building of Granada cinemas (one of them was listed, and listed high too) and of any building with which he had to do; I shall never forget going round the brand new Manchester television studios with him and pointing out that on one of the signposts — naturally done with great artistry and fine lettering — there was a misprint. I thought he would burst, particularly because I was practically hysterical with laughter.

But the house in Barbados was the nearest thing to Paradise that sinners like me will get, and the wonderfully warm Christmases contrasted almost unbelievably with the ones we had had at St Moritz. People say that Christmas can't really be Christmas when the temperature is eighty in the shade; phooey. First of all, such an attitude knocks out Christmas for something like half the world; more to the point, wherever you stand on the Christian message, from full acceptance on one side to the National Secular Society and the Bishop of Durham on the other (I suppose I am some two-thirds or three-quarters over on the former side), it is almost impossible to think of Christmas as any ordinary day, and the reason is obvious: it isn't an ordinary day, and everybody feels — in different ways, no doubt — its unordinariness. Consider the very act of giving presents: though the giver and receiver alike may have no conscious thought other than thanks, somewhere in them is a resonating image, of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Well, in Barbados, as the lovely sea splashed gently on the sand, not a dozen yards from the open side of the house, Christmas was celebrated not in any religious context, but certainly treated, however subconsciously, as a day apart. Not that that stopped me, or any visitor, enjoying the delightful oddness of Christmas pudding in the sun.

Bachelors, I have always found, are very welcome at Christmas; I have spent many such, including many Christmases in the home where the lady of the house is, quite literally, my first true friend, and still the dearest. She and her family invited me for this Christmas, too, but for reasons that are no business of my readers I declined, promising — and I shall keep the promise — to join them at Christmas next year.

Meanwhile, tomorrow is Christmas Day, and I shall be woken by the some of the most beautiful, powerful, meaningful and glorious bells ever cast. To all my readers: a very merry Christmas, and a happy New Year.

The child is father of the man

Janet Bush puts the economic case for nurseries

John Major entirely missed the point when he said universal nursery education must remain only an ambition for now because the Government lacks the resources to make it a reality. Any cost-benefit analysis of daycare and education for under-fives shows that the public finances and the economy come out winners.

Britain is a society where it is normal, and economically necessary in many cases, for both parents to work. It is also a society which has increasingly sunk into self-loathing as juvenile crime figures soar and youngsters leave school incapable of competing in a modern labour market. The provision of nursery education offers compelling benefits for both parents and children, and would undoubtedly play a part in strengthening the sinews of an industrial economy which depends heavily on good quality human capital.

Last year, a study for the National Children's Bureau argued that a high proportion of non-working mothers would work, train or study if good childcare arrangements (and jobs) were available. If they were, the employment rate of women with a child under five would increase from 40 per cent to 65 per cent, representing a considerable boost both to household income, the economy and the Government's tax revenues.

With single mothers being enabled to work, the equation would be even more favourable for the government which would see not only a stream of tax and National Insurance contributions, but savings on a clutch of benefit payments.

But the economic case for nursery education is not principally about how many more parents would be able to work. There is plenty of evidence to suggest that under-fives who attend good nursery classes are given a head-start which benefits them right into adulthood. Last month, the National Commission on Education cited an American programme called the High/Scope Perry Pre-school Project. This took 123 children from disadvantaged African-American families who were in a "high quality, active learning pre-school programme" and followed their lives up to the age of 27, and compared them with a control group of children who had stayed at home.

The results were striking. The High/Scope children performed better during their school years, and as adults were found more likely to have jobs, own homes and be well paid, and less likely to have received help from social services or been involved with crime. Calculations showed that for every dollar invested in these children, more than seven dollars was returned to the taxpayer through savings on the costs of juvenile delinquency, remedial education and benefits.

After a decade in which the market was left to sort out the economy and society, the Government seems to be inching towards the revelation that the *laisser-faire* approach has brought not savings but enormous costs, and that it is the proper duty of government to invest in and nurture human capital and so unleash new power into the economy.

Basing its estimate on official figures, the Daycare Trust believes that universal nursery education would cost around £450 million a year, only 1.4 per cent of the total education budget. Even in the short run, that would be dwarfed by the tax revenues and benefits savings of parents being released to work. In the long run, the Government would be helping nurture better educated and more socially amenable future generations.

Once the economic argument is grasped, the challenge is to design a nursery education system which serves both parents and children: one that provides real teaching and flexible enough hours to release parents to work in full-time jobs. It would be an opportunity missed if Britain opted for a cheap compromise offering children not a first stage of education but glorified childcare, and parents only the prospect of badly-paid part-time jobs.

A way with words

WITH sex and scandal once again rocking the White House, the seriously prurient will be hoping to find a copy of Britain's left-of-centre magazine *New Century* in their Christmas stockings. After all, the second issue promises to tell all about Bill Clinton's way with women.

It makes an impressive start. But then any article that begins "Bill Clinton won the votes of women using the languages and images of Main Street, America *and* the kitchen table" tends to grab the attention.

According to author Linda Tarr-Whelan, an adviser to Democratic candidates, President Clinton's strategy has been bang on. "Women", she writes, "see 'being in touch' as an essential step before... formulating policies." If the Arkansas allegations are to be believed, Clinton has been nothing if not in touch.

Tarr-Whelan keeps the racy pace going right to the final paragraph, when she reveals what keeps "both American and British women up all night". Disappointingly, it's something to do with making ends meet.

Despite an abundance of unintentional *double entendres*, the article is in fact a serious analysis of how Clinton wooed women voters during the election, and looks at how John Smith, the Labour leader, might emulate the tactics in Britain. Carefully, one presumes.

John Underwood, the editor, admits it is not the first time the magazine has been overtaken by events. The first issue focused on Boris Yeltsin just as he ran into a spot of bother with some of his parliamentary colleagues. But Underwood denies that *New Century* has inherited the curse of *Hello!* "You could read the Clinton article either way. It is either supremely relevant or incredibly poignant." And just a little bit disappointing?



● *Might Peter Lilley's enthusiasm for the Child Support Agency be getting a little out of hand? The Social Security Secretary has startled acquaintances with his choice of Christmas card: a reproduction of Carlo Dolci's Madonna and child. Now, God, about those maintenance payments...*

Sequel II

IF 1993 has been the year of the literary sequel — to *Rebecca*, *Wind in the Willows* and *Pride and Prejudice* to name but three — 1994 is fast shaping up to be the year of the sequel's sequel.

Such has been the success of *Pemberley*, Emma Tennant's sequel to *Pride and Prejudice*, that Hodder & Stoughton have commissioned Tennant to write a follow-up. *Pride and Prejudice III* looms. *Pemberley* took up the story of Elizabeth Bennet and Mr Darcy a year after their marriage. Tennant admits what many reviewers said: that the story felt incomplete. "A lot of people kept saying, 'I want to know what happens next'. But it never crossed my mind to keep it open deliberately so that I could write a sequel." *Pemberley Heirs* begins, then, 17 years into the marriage.

So has Tennant set a trend? Susan Hill, who wrote *Mrs de Winter*, the sequel to to Daphne du Maurier's *Rebecca*, thinks not. She says she will "certainly not" be following up her book. "There will be no sequel to *Mrs de Winter*. Thank you."

● *Baroness Thatcher toppled by the SAS? No, not an early Christmas present for the Prime Minister, but the latest machinations of* The Bookseller *list of Christmas best-sellers, where Andy McNab's* Bravo Two Zero *has made a last-minute assault on the top spot, relegating* Thatcher: The Downing Street Years *to second place in the process, and Terry Waite to third. Who dares does win, it seems.*

None unturned

AS BEFITS a retired rock star, Bill Wyman, former bass player with the Rolling Stones, is expanding his country estate. When not checking the beefburgers at his Kensington restaurant Sticky Fingers, Wyman lives in Gedding Hall, an imposing 15th-century moated mansion in Suffolk. Until this week, however, the house, which has all the 15th-century trimmings — leaded windows, exposed timbers — was set in a paltry 30 acres.

But Wyman has now snapped up another 115 acres of land, a part lot from the sale of the adjoining farm. It is, however, unclear quite why, for according to auctioneer Simon Pott of William H. Brown, Wyman is expected to rent the land to a local farmer. Evidently, Wyman prefers sticky fingers to muddy ones.

Cheers

HEADACHES all round in war zones this Christmas, courtesy of Warre's, the port maker. Not only has the company donated a pipe (56 cases) of its Warrior brand port to the British forces in Yugoslavia, but a few cases have now been dispatched to the Grenadier Guards in South Armagh.

According to Warre's UK director, Tim Stanley-Clarke, the company can afford it because of buoyant port sales: "Unlike brandy, port is on the up. It's not just drunk by old colonels." He says the gift has been greeted with such enthusiasm that it is likely to be extended to more of our brave lads next year. "Everywhere, that is, apart from Belize. I can't see port working so well in the tropics."





Never the retiring kind

The 1904 Darracq which featured in the film *Genevieve* may be beginning a genteel retirement in the Dutch National Motor Museum, but Larry Adler (*right*), who provided the film's memorable music, has no plans to take life easy — despite the approach of his 80th birthday.

"I've never heard of a musician retiring," says Adler, who is working on plans for a summer concert in Regents Park, where he hopes to be joined by the likes of Sting (*left*), Elton John and Lisa Stansfield to perform some George Gershwin songs.

Recording of the Gershwin tracks is already under way with George Martin, the former Beatles producer, at the mixing desk. The finished album is scheduled to be released on February 10, Adler's birthday. Now also working on his second volume of autobiography, Adler is modest about his contribution. "In a way it was all Sting's idea," he says. "He called and said he would like to make a record with me. That gave me the idea of getting the other musicians involved."

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الاصل

nergency

Four-year mission to net a record

By Tim Reid

IS Christmas one man be wading the tranquil lows of a Scottish loch inuing his four-year quest and one of Britain's most ...efully elusive game fish ...d with a record.

...indy Ferguson belongs to ...rowing band of anglers ...ed by the enigmatic Ar... hair, whose room- the ice ... his ... roughly 300 fresh- ... and leases the ... the fisherman with ... the surface, ... the record for the ... present only 20lb. would ... present for ... from Iver- ... the Highlands, who ... year at Loch ... entice what ... once in a ... his line.

... beautiful ... thing about ... Ghost canoe ... not easily ... have a ... obsession. ... once in a ...

on da

THE WORD MADE FLESH

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (John I:14)

For the author of the fourth Gospel the good news of the coming of Christ is expressed not by a child born at Bethlehem, not by a makeshift cradle in an outhouse, but in the powerful mysterious language of the Word of God becoming flesh. The Word — in Greek the divine *Logos* — is God's expression of Himself. In the Old Testament God's will and purpose are made known by His word which comes to the prophets and which they declare to God's people. In Hebrew scriptures the wisdom of God is seen as God's agent in creation, and in Greek thought, the *Logos* holds the world together as an integrated system, and is its meaning, order and purpose. Hebrew and Greek thought come together in the Word, which, the St John's Gospel proclaims, was "with God and was God".

The coming of Jesus is new creation. This is the fundamental meaning of the virginal conception of Jesus in the gospels of St Matthew and St Luke. It is expressed in another way in the opening of St John's Gospel with the words "In the beginning", echoing the opening words of the creation story in the first chapter of Genesis. The God who is the origin of all things acts in a new way to redeem creation by an act of new creation. The Word, God's own communication and expression of His being, becomes flesh. "Becoming flesh", incarnation, is the shocking centre of Christian faith, which dares to claim that in the fragility and contingency of a single human life the Creator knew his creation from the inside. "He dwelt among us."

"The Almighty goodness", wrote Coleridge, "does not dwell in generalities, or abide in abstractions." In the particularity of a human life, at a particular time and at a particular place, a meaning is given which illuminates all times and all places. It is the role of Pontius Pilate, a not very notable Roman governor of Palestine, to anchor this intersection of the timeless with time. The chapters in the story of Christ do not begin with a general "once upon a time" but with moments in history. God gives Himself not to some other world, but to this world. In incarnation, "enfleshing", God comes down to earth from heaven; He comes over to our side. That identification is with a world which is both His creation, and is yet estranged from Him. It is a fallen world, a world of darkness and sin. God comes into the muck and mire. Part of the carnality of the incarnation is that God comes into the carnage. Matthew's nativity story is not only about wise men following a star, but about Herod's butchery of children, the massacre of the innocents.

God comes down to where we are. To the world which is Bosnia and bombs, to a world of tyranny both political and domestic, to the world of imprisoning addiction, to the human darkness of depression, loneliness and bereavement, to the hell which is love distorted into hatred, to the prison houses large and small of poverty, injustice and abuse. As St Paul put it in his letter to the Christians of Philippi, Christ who was "in the form of God emptied Himself, and took upon Himself the form of a servant and was made in human likeness".

God does not hold back, He reaches out in love, thirsts for us in love, drains Himself that He may be where we His creatures are, and that we may be gathered into the heart of His love for which we were made. "By this day's emptiness," wrote Mark Frank in the 17th century, "we all were filled." The very self-emptying of God is the fullness of His being as love, a love which judges the sin of the world and our complicity in it, and yet at the same time touches us in forgiveness, and redemption, and healing, if we would have it. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness is not able to overwhelm it."

Lancelot Andrewes, in words which were to move T.S. Eliot, speaks in wonder and amazement in his Christmas sermons of the Word without a word; the eternal Word not able to speak a word. "There lieth He, the Lord of glory without all glory. Instead of a palace, a poor stable; of a cradle of state, a beast's cratch; no pillow but a lock of hay; no hangings but dust and cobwebs; no attendants, but in the midst of animals."

The truth of Christianity, the truth of Christmas, does not depend on the historicity of wise men or stars or shepherds, though they may and do speak of its truth, but it does depend on incarnation, that God is love like this, not just as a metaphor or a way of speaking, but in reality. Such a stupendous affirmation necessarily stretches our language to the limits, and brings us to the adoration where words and even music fail.

The God who empties Himself, the Word who becomes flesh, who takes our nature, is a God of grace indeed. The Christmas gospel dares to proclaim that this is the ultimate truth and reality. Christianity makes the stupendous claim that as the fullness of the love of God is shown in His self-emptying, so our human destiny is nothing less than to be sharers in His divine life. We are to "become by grace what Christ is by nature". At Christmas the rush of the world stops for one moment, and we hold our breath, and catch a glimpse of a love which "bears all things, endures all things and hopes all things" and invites us to risk our lives on its truth, the truth of the Word of God who became flesh and dwelt among us, the truth of the child of Bethlehem.

LORD OF THE ARTS

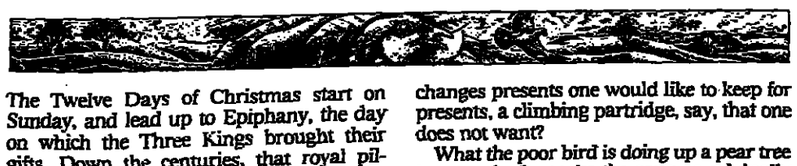
Lord Gowrie faces a daunting task

What tidings of comfort and joy may the arts world draw from Lord Gowrie's appointment as chairman of the Arts Council? The most important point is the confirmation that there will continue to be an Arts Council at all. After the self-inflicted wounds of the last few months, one former arts minister has called for its abolition, and another for a "clear-out" of its membership.

Now yet another former arts minister — one who famously resigned that job in 1985 because it did not pay well enough — has agreed to tackle the most difficult challenge in the arts for no salary at all. His credentials, the Heritage Secretary, Peter Brooke, said yesterday, are "pellucid". By that, he probably means that Lord Gowrie has excellent contacts both in government and the arts. And catholic interests, too: he once said that his three best friends were Margaret Thatcher, Francis Bacon and Andrew Lloyd Webber. But his predecessor, Lord Palumbo, also had good contacts and wide interests. That did not save him from the humiliations which led to his bitter comments this week about being let down by the "philistines" in government. No chairman can singlehandedly restore public trust in the council. Lord Gowrie is entitled to more support from the Heritage Department than Lord Palumbo received. But there are also tough tasks to be undertaken inside the council. Lord Gowrie must first establish an ethos of accountability. He should end the grandiose daydreaming that led to the orchestras debacle, and reassert more humble qualities of competence and fairness. He must also judge whether those currently in senior positions at the council can respond adequately.

Change they must. The arts are a great British success story. Too often, however, this achievement has been overshadowed by "crisis" headlines caused by comparatively minor bureaucratic bunglings. Lord Gowrie must accentuate the positive, trumpet the intrinsic value of the arts loudly and often, and infuse his political masters with his own cultural fervour. His task is not easy; but it should be exhilarating.

PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE



The Twelve Days of Christmas start on Sunday, and lead up to Epiphany, the day on which the Three Kings brought their gifts. Down the centuries, that royal pilgrimage has prolonged the feast through the new year. In the traditional song of the Twelve Days, secular love persists in prolonging celebration too. As our own contribution to the coming Twelve Days, *The Times* intends to follow the old song to its conclusion, noticing a few serious and not-so-serious points on the way.

The presents sent by the song's "true love" are nothing if not eccentric. Who would need all those ill-assorted birds moulting and squawking, the Lords hirpling around with sprained ankles, maids bored out of their bonnets with no cows to milk, and pipers and drummers making Noel Edmonds's *House Party* seem as sane as a Socratic dialogue? No one, one might think.

But, before we become too superior, who will need this year's selection of Mr Blobby singles and aluminium Christmas trees indistinguishable from the real plastic ones? It may not be polite to look a gift bar of soap in the mouth, particularly if it is in the shape of a frog and comes from the Brill Prezzy Boutique. But the temptation to be ungrateful is very great. Has it always been in the essence of the festive season that one exchanges presents one would like to keep for presents, a climbing partridge, say, that one does not want?

What the poor bird is doing up a pear tree is a puzzle. It marks the song as originally French. The native English partridge does not roost in trees. The Red Leg French partridge does: and it was not introduced into England until 1770, just before the song arrived too. One interpretation is that the partridge is a symbol of the devil, who reveals to Herod that the Virgin Mary is hiding behind a sheaf of corn. Another notes the rural superstition that a girl who walks backwards three times around a pear tree on Christmas Eve will see the image of her future husband. Hrumm.

The "Twelve Days of Christmas" was originally a forfeits game, in which each player had to recite the objects named by previous players, and then add one more. So by Twelfth Night one is supposed to have 12 partridges in 12 pear trees. This may be too much of a good thing. *Perdrix, toujours perdrix*: that was the French king Henri IV's punishment for the confessor who suggested that his monarch should confine himself to one mistress. A partridge once a fortnight is certainly enough: as for turtle doves, we will deal with them in our next issue. Compliments of the season.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Squalls ahead for an ageing Church

From Prebendary Rodney Schofield

Sir, The weather forecast for the Church of England: a theological low (the loss of credibility), financial depression (the Church Commissioners), some local turbulence (the Archdeacon of York vying with the Bishop of Durham) and expected gale damage (the ordination of women). As a parish priest of 20-plus years standing none of these, as it happens, alarms me unduly. The Church has faced many a rough passage in the past and come through with renewed hope and vigour.

But there is one longer-term difficulty which threatens what for me, and I suspect for many others, is the essential character of the Anglican Church in this country: its active presence in local communities, otherwise known as the parochial system.

Because of the increasing average age of ordinands, who will reach retirement so much earlier, there are likely to be about 1,500 fewer clergy (paid and unpaid) available for parochial duty in ten years' time. This figure is of course an estimate, but it includes both men and women, and takes no account of any resignations for reason of conscience in 1994.

The calculation runs like this. A random sample of Crockford's suggests that about 26 per cent of clergy in England are now aged 55-59, with some 20 per cent aged 60 or over. Total numbers in service are 11,000 or less on diocesan pay rolls, with 1,000 or more non-stipendiary ministers and 800-plus in chaplaincy work, adding up to 13,000. In ten years' time 6,000 of these will have retired, being replaced by no more than 4,500, at present rate of recruitment.

The effect will not be noticeable until the turn of the century, when the ordained strength of the Church of England will be about an eighth less, spelling a continual retreat from rural areas into the towns. Those who look to forms of lay ministry to compensate should not forget that the laity also are more numerous in suburbia.

My own prayer is that young people will not always be wooed by the siren voices of secular opportunity and advancement, but will sometimes respond at an earlier age to the eternal verities, and discover the rewarding challenge of Christian ministry. It is not a career, and I hope never will be, but an opportunity to live humanly and sometimes to help others a little nearer their own salvation.

Yours faithfully,
RODNEY SCHOFIELD
(Director of Ordinands,
Diocese of Bath & Wells),
West Monkton Rectory,
Taunton, Somerset.
December 22.

Durham divined

From Dr Sheridan Gilley

Sir, Is it possible that the Bishop of Durham is a mythical figure, invented by the media to fill news space and to remind good Christians at Christmas and Easter of what they ought to believe [letters, December 18, 21, 23]?

After all, the main evidences for the bishop's existence lie in these biannual visitations, in a calendar cycle of public ritual behaviour which is surely a proof of his legendary character. I, too, was once a believer, having thought that I had seen him: but the imaginary bishop offers us a hint of the truth in his reminder that no such evidence need be compelling.

There are other signs here of the fabulous. The mythical bishop is unlike any real historical one. The scriptures about him are full of incoherencies and contradictions. And a Radio Cleveland announcer explained to me his interest in the "bishop" thus: "It's Christmas, and nothing controversial is happening except in Bosnia". (And, presumably, Northern Ireland?)

Is it not high time that the public's touching credulity about this consoling faith figure was dispelled?

Yours faithfully,
SHERIDAN GILLEY,
University of Durham,
Department of Theology,
Abbey House,
Palace Green, Durham.

From Mr Michael G. T. Stokes

Sir, The Bishop of Durham's views on Hell are old hat. According to *The Reminiscences of Sir Henry Hawkins, Baron Brampton*, published in 1904, the House of Lords was said to have abolished Hell with costs; it had found against a vicar who had refused his churchwarden the sacrament because he had lost his belief in the personality of the Devil.

That was not the end of the matter. It was later established that the churchwarden had returned to the orthodox position and once again believed wholeheartedly in the personality of the Devil — when he received his attorney's bill!

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL G. T. STOKES,
1 King's Bench Walk, Temple, EC4.

From Mr G. V. B. Crosswell

Sir, The Bishop of Durham might be well advised to suspend his disbelief temporarily. Otherwise, on Saturday morning, he may find his gaiters short of an orange and a Mars Bar.

Yours faithfully,
JOE CROSSWELL,
The Trojans Club, Stoneham Lane,
Southampton, Hampshire.

Struggle to find solutions in Ulster

From the Reverend Martin Smyth, MP for Belfast South (Ulster Unionist)

Sir, We have heard a good deal from Dublin recently about a "reunited Ireland", and the "reintegration of the national territory". But Ireland has never been united except under the English crown, and it was the South which, by violent rebellion in 1916, brought about the disintegration of the United Kingdom.

Is it not obvious that the means to reintegration rest solely in the hands of the South: putting the past behind them and, in Mr Albert Reynolds's words, sharing the grief and shame for that past?

Mr Reynolds has spoken of a new era of understanding in which new relationships of trust may develop with the British. In the Downing Street declaration (text, December 16) he subscribed to the building of structures which would "include institutional recognition of the special links that exist between the peoples of Britain and Ireland".

Let him now take the heroic first step to end the sad and damaging partition of our two islands and to create a new Union to take its place in the Europe of the 21st century.

Yours faithfully,
W. MARTIN SMYTH
(Director of Information),
Ulster Unionist Council,
3 Glengall Street, Belfast.
December 17.

From Mr Colin J. Edwards

Sir, Gerry Adams's call for republican prisoners to be freed as part of a negotiated settlement (report, December 21) is justified.

Governmental negotiations have legitimised the IRA, and with it those who have acted on its behalf. It would be a curious peace negotiation that kept the prisoners incarcerated after the war was over.

Yours sincerely,
COLIN J. EDWARDS,
25 Wannerton Road,
Blakedown, Worcestershire.
December 21.

From Sir Neil Pritchard

Sir, No lasting amelioration of the situation in Northern Ireland is available without a maximising of cooperation between the British and Irish governments.

In this context the joint declaration deserves recognition as in itself a forward-looking achievement on which a better future can be built.

The declaration's success or failure should therefore not be judged on any short-term or simplistic criterion such as whether the IRA abandons violence forthwith. Indeed if the IRA does not do so it will be all the more important that the joint declaration should not be abandoned as having "failed", but should be doggedly pursued by both governments as the best way of ensuring that the IRA is put under continuing maximum pressure.

Yours sincerely,
N. PRITCHARD,
Little Garth, Daglingworth,
Cirencester, Gloucestershire.
December 21.

From Mr Frank Merron

Sir, It is a fact that Northern Ireland is part of the United Kingdom and it is also a fact that a substantial majority of its population want it to remain so.

The object of Sinn Fein, which it has sought to achieve by way of murder and mayhem carried out by its terrorist arm, is to annex Northern Ireland to Eire in defiance of the wishes of its people.

If Mr Major is to have talks with Sinn Fein this is what they will be talking about; not any form of compromise, nor some other objective; there isn't another one.

When once a British Prime Minister negotiated with unregenerate murderers in the matter of an annexation he returned waving a "treaty" and crying "Peace". The outcome, you will recall, was less than peaceful.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK MERRON,
19 Victoria Grove,
Friern Park, North Finchley, N12.

From Mr Ivan Cole

Sir, In South Africa, the white immigrants are handing back, after several centuries, the rule of their country to the original inhabitants; why should not the Protestant immigrants in Northern Ireland do just the same?

Yours faithfully,
IVAN COLE,
Inner Pynes, Upton Pyne, Devon.

'Racism' in East End

From Mr John Yeowell

Sir, The case of the disgraced Liberal Democrat councillors of Tower Hamlets proceeds apace (report, later editions, December 20). As a Tower Hamlets voter I have a personal interest. When I wrote to Mr Ashdown expressing sympathy for and requesting understanding of his party workers in a difficult and sensitive area of East London I received a formal reply. But when I then asked to give evidence before the internal enquiry that he had set up, with a promise that I would be called, I simply waited and waited.

The enquiry found that a number of councillors were guilty of "pandering to racist sentiment".

Those of us who are not lawyers may find such a verdict disingenuous: racism itself is difficult to define — it is truly in the eye of the beholder; how then can one be found guilty of "pandering" to such a nebulous offence?

Mr Ashdown and his party's top brass are clearly out of touch with the realities of life in the East End of London. In their ignorance they have been responsible for damaging the political, and perhaps the personal, lives of apparently expendable party workers.

Perhaps Mr Ashdown would now care to re-examine his own and his party's moral principles and then ask himself if it was commensurate with justice to order a secret enquiry whose desired verdict would be so widely publicised in advance.

Yours etc,
JOHN YEOWELL,
10 Trinity Green,
Mile End Road, E1.
December 20.

Running the lottery

From Mr Richard Branson

Sir, Professor Teeling Smith (letter, December 20) expressed some concerns that a lottery owned by a charitable foundation would not have enough profit motive for the organisers.

If our bid proves successful, we shall set up and run the National Lottery no differently than any of our other companies. We have appointed an excellent chief executive who has already masterminded and run a national lottery. He and his staff will be paid well, and properly incentivised to make sure that Britain's National Lottery is the most profitable in the world.

The only difference of our approach to that of the other contenders is that, instead of sending the profits to a consortium of huge public companies, our chief executive and his staff (and all those having a flutter) will know that 100 per cent of the profits are going to good causes. People like to be proud of the company they work for. What better added incentive for our staff to perform?

Kind regards,
RICHARD BRANSON (Trustee,
The UK Lottery Foundation),
Virgin Management Ltd,
120 Campden Hill Road, W8.

Much dearer by post

From Mr Norman Hart

Sir, Sir Colin Turner's letter (December 13) raised a most interesting opportunity for the Government to assist materially in the development of our overseas trade.

By reducing radically the postage on magazines sent overseas, publishers would be encouraged to send more copies abroad, whereas at present it is not profitable to do so.

Such publications, particularly trade and technical journals, carry anything up to 100 advertisements, each issue promoting British goods. With well over 2,000 titles, this can amount to at least 200,000 advertisements per week or per month. Not to mention the editorial support.

Already there is valuable assistance for overseas exhibitions, missions and market research. Here now is a way of aiding our international competitiveness and doing so without conflicting with the latest Gatt regulations.

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN HART,
Ravenor House,
13 Culverden Park Road,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
December 14.

Business letters, page 23

Recycled greetings

From Mr David F. Grayston

Sir, Thirty-three years ago I entered into an "economy pact" with a school friend, then in Australia as a cadet on the ss *City of Lancaster*. We agreed to return each other's Christmas cards, to and fro, year after year. Each Christmas we were to add a few lines of news. I have, today, received my original "card with the dogs on" and he should have received, in Toronto, the "Waltzing Matilda" card.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID F. GRAYSTON,
Rosier, Crown Lane,
Tendring, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex.
December 21.

Nameless friends

From Dr Victor Purvis

Sir, I have received ten Christmas cards from a "Mary" and a further six from a "Jack". I beg them to add their surnames next year.

Yours faithfully,
VICTOR PURVIS,
Upper Town Farm,
Clifton Hampden,
Abingdon, Oxfordshire.
December 18.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

Jules et Kevin: what's in a nom?

From Mr Hugo Skillington

Sir, Your report and leading article, "Jules et Kevin" (December 20), on trends in the choice of Christian names in France being influenced by English-language soap-operas, struck a chord with me. It was with some trepidation that I went to the town hall in St Tropez in October 1974 to register the birth of my elder son, Harry.

At the time the population had recently been reminded that only names in the book of common prayer were allowed, following attempts by the designer Courrèges to call his daughter Clafouti — the name of a rather sickly fruit batter pudding.

I announced in what I hoped was a confident manner "Harry Charles Michael", expecting trouble with Harry, at which point I was ready to say that if it was good enough for eight kings of England, it could be regarded as such by the mayor of St Tropez.

To my surprise, and I suppose to a certain extent, disappointment, the lady wrote it down, correctly spelt, with no comment, and handed me Harry's birth certificate with something most uncommon with French civil servants, high or low, a smile.

Yours faithfully,
HUGO SKILLINGTON,
10 Route Nationale,
83680 La Garde Freinet, France.
December 21.

From Mr Denis Edward Kevin Meehan

Sir, When, many years ago, I chose Kevin as my confirmation name soap was merely an aid to cleanliness.

Basildon man cannot be expected to know, still less an Arab immigrant to France, that Kevin was the name of a rather fierce Irish saint who repulsed amorous women by throwing them into beds of nettles, but I'd expect *The Times* to know that the name is Celtic in origin, not Anglo-Saxon.

Yours faithfully,
DENIS MEEHAN,
238 Upper Richmond Road,
Putney, SW15.
December 20.

Correcting the record

From Dr Alan Bullock

Sir, I have noticed what I take to be the creeping presence of political correctness in the updated lyrics of Christmas pop songs. The hoary *Winter Wonderland*, always much in evidence on the airwaves at this time of year, contains the following quatrain:

In the meadow we will build a
snowman,
And pretend that he is Parson Brown;
He'll say: "Are you married?"
We'll say: "No, man;
But you can do the job when you're
in town!"

In the version I currently hear played the last two lines have been replaced by the following:

We'll have lots of fun with
Mr Snowman,
Much more than all the other kids
in town!

This not only renders the reference to Parson Brown totally meaningless, but, more seriously, suggests that the exaltation of marriage is something unacceptable in the context of light music, as would be, say, the glorification of violence or incitement to rape.

Does whoever is responsible for the alteration really believe that the original text is offensive to those whose sexual relationships are sacramentally challenged?

Perhaps the next stage in the game will be to exclude any reference to love on the grounds that at any given moment there are plenty of people around who are not experiencing it.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN BULLOCK,
The University of Leeds,
Department of Italian Language
and Literature,
Leeds LS2 9JT.
December 23.

Double entendre

From Captain P. R. D. Kimm, RN (retd)

Sir, A small carol singer in this family has exhorted the rest of us to "Remember Christ our Saviour was born . . . to save us all from Santa's power". Could there be a more apt comment on the commercialisation of Christmas?

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
PETER KIMM,
69 New Brighton Road,
Emsworth, Hampshire.
December 22.

Humbug!

From Mr B. G. Hoare

Sir, For several years my wife has worked as PA to the company secretary of a wealthy firm. As a token of appreciation for her work through the year she has just received from him a refrigerator door magnet — made in Taiwan but very nicely wrapped in two-inch-square festive paper.

Who says chartered accountants have no heart?

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN HOARE,
The Bursary,
Eton College,
Windsor, Berkshire.
December 22.

SOCIAL NEWS

Memorial service

Lady Somers
A memorial service for Lady Somers was held on Wednesday at St Michael's, Church, Dulas, Hereford. The Rev Arthur Moore officiated and read the lessons. Miss Joyce Lang gave an address.

University news

Bath
The Chancellor, Sir Denys Henderson, has conferred honorary degrees on the following:
Amelia Freedman, former Artistic Director of the Bath Festival, Doctor of Music *honoris causa*.
Ivor Powell, professional footballer, football manager and football coach, Master of Arts, *honoris causa*.

School news

St Albans High School for Girls
Mrs Carol Daly to be Headmistress from September 1994 in succession to Miss Elizabeth Diggory. Mrs Daly is at present Headmistress of Forest Girls' School.

Institute of Marine Engineers

The following have been elected Fellows of the institute and are entitled to use the designatory letters FIMarE:
Mr A M Ali Hassan; Mr W T O Ballantine; Mr A R Banks; Mr B Behnava; Mr R A Carpenter; Mr N E Chell; Mr J G Clark; Mr J B Colegrave; Mr B E Dakers; Mr W J Fairbrother; Cdr N A Haines, RN; Mr J Hines; Mr N Hornsby; Mr J L Hutchinson; Mr J McGillivray; Mr K Macleod; Mr L H Michaels; Mr A E Molenaar; Lt Cdr R J Morgan, RN; Mr A H Morton; Mr M J Newbury; Mr J G Richardson; Mr C R Smith; Mr J N Stanfield; Prof D Stapersma, Mr B J Thomas; Cdre R B Turner, RN.

Appointment

Tony Millson, at present Chargé d'Affaires at Skopje, to be Ambassador to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.



Queen Silvia of Sweden blows out the candles on her 50th birthday cake at the royal palace in Stockholm. King Carl XVI Gustaf holds the cake while Prince Carl Philip, Crown Princess Victoria and Princess Madeleine watch

Birthdays

Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester and Princess Alexandra celebrate their birthdays on Christmas Day.

Christmas Eve: Mr A.T. Baillie, diplomat, 61; Mrs Mair Barnes, managing director, Woolworths, 49; Professor Anthony Clare, psychiatrist, 51; Sir Colin Cowdrey, cricketer, 61; Brigadier Dame Barbara Cozens, former director, Army Nursing Services, 87; Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Vivian Dunn, 85; Sir Gerald Elliot, former chairman, Christian Salvesen, 70; Sir Nicholas Fairbairn, QC, MP, 60; Mr Jeremy Hindley, racehorse trainer, 50; Dame Joan Kelleher, former director, WRAC, 78; Sir Ivan Lawrence, QC, MP, 57; Miss Suzy Menkes, fashion journalist, 50; Sir Noel Moynihan, former chairman, Save the Children Fund, 77; Miss Thea Porter, fashion designer, 66; Mr J.D. Taylor, MP, 56; Viscount Thurso, 71; Miss Carol Vorderman, broadcaster, 33; Mr Philip Ziegler, author, 64.

Christmas Day: Lord Annan, 77; Mr James Bolger, racehorse trainer, 52; Miss S.J. Browne, former principal, Newnham College, Cambridge, 69; Mr Cab Calloway, bandleader, 86; Dr Kenneth Calman, chief medical officer, HM Government, 52; Mr Kenny Everett, broadcaster, 49; Professor Christopher Frayling, cultural historian, 47; Lord Grade, 87; the Right Rev Noël Jones, Bishop of Sodor and Man, 61; Sir Nick Larmour, diplomat, 77; Miss Annie Lennox, singer, 39; Sir Peter Matthews, former chief constable, Surrey, 76; Mr Ismail Merchant, film producer, 57; Professor Phyllida Parsloe, professor of social work, 63; Sir Allen Sheppard, chairman and chief executive, Grand Metropolitan, 61; Mr Nigel Starmer-Smith, sports commentator, 49; Sir Noel Stockdale, life president, Asda Group, 73; Sir Christopher Wates, chief executive, Wates Building Group, 54.

Boxing Day: Professor D.H. Barlow, obstetrician and gynaecologist, 44; Captain George W. Burnet, Lord Lieutenant of Midlothian, 66; Professor C.M. Campbell, vice-chancellor, Nottingham University, 49; Mr Patric Dickinson, poet and playwright, 79; Mr Alastair Dunnett, former chairman, Thomson Scottish Petroleum, 85; Baroness Faithfull, 83; Sir Christopher Hewetson, solicitor, 64; Mr Rohan Kanhai, cricketer, 58; Mr Eric Kinder, chairman, Smith and Nephew, 66; Professor Thea King, clarinettist, 68; Miss Jane Lapotaire, actress, 49; Mr David Perry, chairman, John Waddington, 56; Mr Denis Quilley, actor, 66; Miss Anna Scher, founder, Anna Scher Theatre, 49.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.A. Clark and Miss M.W.Y. Kwok
The engagement is announced between Robert, youngest son of Mr and Mrs James Clark, of Poole, Dorset, and Mary, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs David Kwok, of Toronto, Canada.

Mr N.P. Clohessy and Miss O.S. Hutchinson
The engagement is announced between Noel, son of Mr and Mrs John Clohessy, and Oriel, elder daughter of Mr Piers and Mrs Dinah Hutchinson.

Mr M.J.V. Craik and Miss N.S. Lawrence
The engagement is announced between Michael, youngest son of Mr and Mrs D.M. Craik, of Bengeo, Hertfordshire, and Nicola, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs J.S. Lawrence, of Beachampton, Buckinghamshire.

Mr P.L. Dolan and Miss E.E. Johnson
The engagement is announced between Philip Lewis, son of Mr and Mrs P. Dolan, of Hawkswick, Skipton, and Emma Elizabeth, daughter of the Rev K.M. and Mrs Johnson, of Birtley, Church Stretton.

Mr E.C. Ecroyd and Miss S.J. Grant
The engagement is announced between Edward Charles, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Ecroyd, of Armthwaite, Cumbria, and Sara Jane, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs David Grant, of Devonport, Tasmania.

Mr M.C. Field and Miss M.L. Acton
The engagement is announced between Mark Christopher, elder son of the late Major and of Mrs P.C. Field, of Reading, Berkshire, and Michèle Louise, only daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Acton, of Knutsford, Cheshire.

Mr T.A. St J. Grantham-Wright and Miss M.N.A. Hurst
The engagement is announced between Thomas, only son of Colonel Kenneth Grantham-Wright, CBE, and Mrs Grantham-Wright, of West Tytherley, Wiltshire, and Melissa, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John Hurst, of Monte Carlo, Monaco.

Mr D.J.S. Heard and Miss R.C. Gibbons
The engagement is announced between David Heard, of London, elder son of the late Mr and Mrs R.K. Heard, of North Canterbury, New Zealand, and Rebecca Clare, younger daughter of Lieutenant-Commander and Mrs Paul Gibbons, of Hampshire.

Mr K.J. Keyte and Miss A.J. Dill
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, eldest son of Mr and Mrs K.W. Keyte, of West Monkton, Somerset, and Alison, second daughter of Mr and Mrs J.L. Dill, of Hestercombe, Somerset.

Mr A. McDougall and Miss A.S.R. Azeez
Mr and Mrs Mohammed Mohideen Azeez, of Beckenham, Kent, are pleased announce the engagement of their only daughter Angélique Sophia Rifaya Azeez, to Mr Alan McDougall, only son of Mr and Mrs Marc McDougall, formerly of Killean, Scotland.

Mr P.S. Morris and Miss K.A. Pollock
The engagement is announced between Paul, youngest son of the late Mr Joseph E. Morris, of Pudsey, and Karen, only daughter of Mr Gordon H. Pollock of Ayr.

Mr F.P.M. Sewell and Miss R.M.A. Hare
The engagement is announced between Francis, youngest son of Mrs Ivy Sewell and the late Mr George Sewell, of Westbury on Trym, Bristol and Rebecca, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Hare, of Fleet, Hampshire.

Mr N.S. Tsolkas and Miss E.L. Hughes
The engagement is announced today between Nicholas, son of Christopher and Anastasia Tsolkas, and Emma, daughter of Brian and Jacqui Hughes.

Mr N.R. Whillis and Miss J.H. Chamberlain
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, eldest son of Mr and Mrs C.R. Whillis, of Fetcham, Surrey, and Judith Helen, only daughter of Mr and Mrs M.J. Chamberlain, of Epsom, Surrey.

Anniversaries

Christmas Eve
BIRTHS: King John, reigned 1199-1216, Oxford, 1167; James Joule, physicist, Salford, Lancashire, 1818; Matthew Arnold, poet and critic, Laleham, Middlesex, 1822; George I, King of Greece 1863-1913, Copenhagen, 1845; Howard Hughes, manufacturer, aviator and film producer, Houston, 1905.
DEATHS: Vasco da Gama, navigator, Cochin, India, 1524; Thomas Beddoes, physician, 1808; William Makepeace Thackeray, novelist, London, 1863; Alban Berg, composer, Vienna, 1935; Louis Aragon, writer, Paris, 1982.

Christmas Day
BIRTHS: Orlando Gibbons, musician, Cambridge, 1583; Sir Isaac Newton, physicist, Woolsthorpe, Lincolnshire, 1642; William Collins, poet, Chichester, 1721; Dorothy Wordsworth, writer, Cockermouth, Cumberland, 1771; Alexander Scriabin, composer, Moscow, 1872; Mohammed Ali Jinnah, 1st Governor-General of Pakistan 1947-48, Karachi, 1876; Maurice Utrillo, painter, Paris, 1883; Humphrey Bogart, actor, New York City, 1899; Mohamed Anwar El-Sadat, President of Egypt 1970-81, Tala, 1918.
DEATHS: Joseph Fouché, Duc d'Otrante, statesman, Trieste, 1820; W.C. Fields, actor, Pasadena, 1946; Charles Pathé, film producer, 1957; Sir Charles (Charlie) Chaplin, silent film star, Switzerland, 1977; Joan Miró, abstract painter, Majorca, 1983.

Boxing Day
BIRTHS: Thomas Gray, poet, London, 1716; Charles Babbage, pioneer of calculating machines, Totnes, 1792; Henry Miller, novelist, New York, 1891; Mao Tse-Tung, Chairman of the People's Republic of China 1949-59, Shaoshan, Hunan province, 1893.
DEATHS: John Wilkes, political reformer, London, 1797; Heinrich Schliemann, archaeologist, Naples, 1890; Harry S. Truman, 33rd American President 1945-53, Kansas City, 1972; Sir Lennox Berkeley, composer, 1989.

Church services for Christmas Day and Boxing Day

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Rt Rev Mark Santer; 4 EP. 26: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 S Euch; 4 SE.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, A tender shoot (Goldschmidt), Britten in C, Here is the little door (Howells); 11 S Euch, Mozart Coronation Mass, Hodie Christus natus est (Palestrina), Archbishop; 3.15 E, Dyson in D. 26: 8 HC; 9.30 M; 11 S Euch, Mass for three voices (Byrd), Christus natus est nobis (Anon), Rev P G C Brett; 3.15 E, Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis to Anglican Chant.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 10.30 S Euch, Andante in F (Mozart); Coronation Mass (Mozart), Toccata (Dubois), The Bishop. 26: 10.30 Euch, In dulci jubilo (Bach), Canon D Jenkins; 3 E.

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 8, 12 HC; 9.30 Parish C, Rev Jacqui Jones; 11 Service for Christmas Morning, Love came down at Christmas (Rutter), Stanford in C; Carillon-Sortie (Mulet), The Provost; 5.15 EP. 26: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Parish C, The Provost; 11.15 Euch, Canon Barry Thompson; 6 E.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Choral M, Stanford in B flat; 11.30 Choral E, Jackson in G, On this day earth shall ring (Henry Campbell Stewart), Lord Jesis (George Thalben Ball), In the bleak mid winter (Darke); 4.15 Choral E, Dyson in F.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Stanford in A, I saw three ships (Lloyd), The Chancellor; 11 S Euch, Messe Solennelle (Langlais), Hodie Christus natus est (Sweelinck), The Bishop; 5.30 E.

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 C; 10.30 Cathedral Euch, Nativity Carol (Rutter), The holly and the ivy (Walford Davies), A babe is born I wys (Bainton), Rt Rev Simon Barrington-Ward; 3.30 EP at Crib. 26: 7.40 MP; 8 C; 10.30 Cathedral Euch, Christmas night (Rutter), Torches (Joubert), Rev John Blackman; 3 German Lutherans; 3 Polish Lutherans; 5.30 EP.

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 7.15, 8, 11.15 HC; 10 M, Stanford in B flat, The Dean; 3.30 E, Collegium Regale (Howells), Hodie Christus natus est (Sweelinck). 26: 8, 11.15 HC; 10 M, Canon Pedley; 3.30 E.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Sancti Nicolai (Haydn), The Dean; 3.45 E, Sumsion in G, Fantasia on Christmas Carols (Vaughan Williams). 26: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, In dulci jubilo (Buxtehude), St Stephen at peace (Williamson), Prelude and Fugue in D (Bach) Canon Green; 3 Carol Service.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 Christmas Service for Families; 12 Euch. 26: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch, Darke in F, The Shepherds' Cradle Song (Leuner-Macpherson), The Precentor; 4 EP.

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Missa Sancti Nicolai (Haydn), O little town of Bethlehem (Walford Davies), The Bishop; 11.15 M, Te Deum & Benedictus in F (Ireland), The Dean; 3.45 E, Stanford in A, When Jesus our Lord was born in Bethlehem (Mendelssohn), Dieu parmi nous (Messiaen).

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Sanctae Nicholae (Haydn), Today the Virgin (Tavener), In the bleak midwinter (Darke), Rev Dr Gordon Wakefield; 3.30 E, Plainsong, Blatchly in C, I sing of a maiden (Hadley). 26: 8 HC; 9.30 HC with hymns; 3.30 Cathedral Carol Service.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 12.15 H Euch; 7.30 M; 9 Procession and Parish Euch; 10.45 Processing and S Euch, Mass no. 3 in B flat (Schubert), Hodie Christus natus est (Sweelinck), The Lord Bishop; 12.30 E. 26: 7.30 M; 8, 12.15 H Euch; 9 Parish Euch, The Dean; 11 Procession and S Euch, White in E, O little one sweet (Bach), The Rev S P Kirk; 3.30 Festal E, Long in F, Once as I remember (Nouvelet); 6.30 E.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 10.20 MP; 11 Choral Euch, Missa Brevis in D (Mozart), For unto us a child is born (Handel), Jesus Christ, the apple tree (Poston), The Provost. 26: 9 Euch; 11 Choral Euch, Darke in F, Canon Roy White; 3 E, Stanford in B flat.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Mass in B flat (Schubert), Rev P de N Lucas; 11.30 M, I saw three ships (Marshall), Vaughan Williams in G, Jubilate (William Walton, Hodie Christus natus est (Sweelinck); 3 E. 26: 8 HC; 9.15 M; 9.45 S Euch, Very Rev R Lewis; 2 E; 3 Carol Service.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10.30 Abbey Euch, Mass in G minor (Vaughan Williams), The Dean; 3 E, Watson in E, Fantasia on Chrismas Carols (Vaughan Williams). 26: 8 HC; 10 M, Responses (Tallis), Te Deum (Clucas), Coventry Carol, Canon Anthony Harvey; 11.15 Abbey Euch, Missa brevis (Palestrina), God, who made the earth and sky (Grier), Sing Lullaby (Howells), Canon Athony Harvey; 3 E, Magnificat in G (Sumsion), Nunc Dimittis (Burgon), Ceremony of Carols (Britten).

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9, 12 M; 10 MP; 10.30 Solemn M, Missa Sancti Nicolai (Haydn), Hodie Christus natus est (Sweelinck), Final Symphone (Vierne), The Cardinal; 3.30 Solemn Second V&B, Magnificat primi toni (Bevan), A spotless rose (Howells), In the bleak midwinter (Darke), Les Enfants de Dieu (Messiaen). 26: 7, 8, 9, 12, 5.30, 7 M; 10 MP; 10.30 Solemn M, Missa Puer natus est nobis (Tallis), Beata es, virgo Maria (Victoria), Dieu parmi nous (Messiaen); 3.30 Solemn V&B, Magnificat octavi toni (Suriano), In principio erat verbum (Josquin), Desseins Eternels (Messiaen).

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, HC; 10.30 M, Jubilate in C (Stanford), Joseph Lieber (Praetorius, In dulci jubilo (Bach), The Dean; 11.30 Euch, Personent hodie (Holst), Messe Cum jubilo (Duruflé), Dieu parmi nous (Messiaen); 3.30 E and Procession, Murrill in F, Fantasia on Christmas Carols (Vaughan Williams), Vinale, Symphonie I (Vierne). 26: 9.45 M; 10.30 Euch, Canon Britton; 3.30 E, Canon Deedes.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Mozart), O Magnum Mysterium (Gabrieli), The Archbishop; 11.30 M, Sumsion in G, Very Rev John Southgate Dean; 4 E, Stanford in C, Hodie Christus natus est (Poulenc). 26: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Missa O quam gloriosum (Victoria), The blessed Son of God (Vaughan Williams), Ven Leslie Stanbridge; 11.30 M, Stanford in B flat; 4 E, Holman in F minor.

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8 M with Carols; 10 Family M, Archbishop Michael; 11.30 Choral M. 26: 8, 6 LM; 10 Family M; 11.30 Solemn M, Fr Anthony Richins; 2 Ghanaian M.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC; 10.30 M, Stanford in B flat, The Dean; 11.30 HC, Missa Brevis in C (Mozart), Hodie Christus natus est (Sweelinck), The Lord Bishop of London; 3.15 E, Dyson in D, Jauchzet frohlocket (Bach), God is with us (Tavener), Symphony no. 5 in F (Widor). 26: 8 HC; 10.30 M, Collegium Regale (Howells), Rev John Halliburton; 11.30 HC, Ireland in C, The Holy Boy (Ireland); 3.15 E, Brewer in D, Hymn to the Virgin (Britten), Carillon (Vierne), Rev Preb Michael Shrewsbury.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, Dundee: 8 HC; 10.30 Choral Euch, Harwood in A flat, Mary's Lullaby (Rutter), The Bishop. 26: 8 HC; 10 S Euch.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8 LM; 10.20 MP; 11 HM, Missa Sancti Nicolai (Haydn), Hodie Christus natus est (Sweelinck), Rev P McGeary. 26: 8, 5.15 LM; 11 HM, Missa O magnum mysterium (Victoria), There is no rose (Joubert), Vicar; 4.30 EP.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 10.30 Family Service, Rev Preb Richard Bewes. 26: 11 C, Rev Christopher Hobbs; 6.30 C, Rev Preb Richard Bewes.

AMERICAN CHURCH IN LONDON, Tottenham Court Rd, W1: 26: 9.45 Sunday School; 11 Worship, Rev James Schmidt.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 26: 11 Missa O magnum mysterium (Vittoria), Cantantibus organis (Philips), Gabriel's message (Basque carol).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8, 12.15 HC; 10 Children's Service; 11 M, Hodie Christus Natus Est (Sweelinck), Bethlehem Down (Warlock, Sir Christemas (Matthias), Rev P Elvy. 26: 8, 12.15 HC; 11 M, Rev P Elvy; 6 E.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11 Christmas Service, Rev Stanley Hood; 26: 11.15 Rev Stanley Hood.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 HC, Rev Tom Gillum; 11 Informal Service, Rev Sandy Millar. 26: 9 HC; 11 Informal Service, Mr Jeremy Jennings; 6.30 Informal Service, Rev Tom Gillum.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 26: 9.45 HC; 11 Morning Service, Sister Elizabeth.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 10.30 Family Service, Rev Dr R John Tudor. 26: 11 Family Carol Hour.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Choral HC, Rev Dr Johann Schneider. 26: 11 Choral HC, Rev Ronald T Englund.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 11 Children's Service. 26: 9 HC; 11 M, Preb Michael Shrewsbury; 6.30 Rev A Winter.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Family Service, Darke in F, Beata Quorum Via. 26: 11 Choral M and Euch, Stanford in B flat, Apple tree (Mawby), Canon John Oates; 6.30 Choral E, In dulci jubilo, Dormi Jesu, Sir Christemas, Canon John Oates.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Choral Euch, Mass in G (Schubert), Virga Jesse floruit (Bruckner), In dulci jubilo (Bach), Rev GB McAvoy. 26: 9, 12.15 HC; 11 M, Boyce in C, In the bleak midwinter (Darke), Rev GB McAvoy.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 10 HC; 11 Family Service. 26: 11 Rev John H McIndoe; 6.30 Rev W Alexander Cairns.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 26: 11 Sung M, Missa ad fugam (Palestrina), Bethlem Down (Warlock), Von Himmel hoch, da komm' ich her (Bach).

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Mozart in C, A Virgin most pure (Trad), The Rector. 26: 8.30, 11 HC, The Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Garlickhythe, EC4: 10.30 S Euch, Darke in F, Rector John Paul.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 10.30 Family Euch and Procession, Coronation Mass (Mozart), Rev Graham Buckle. 26: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Congregational Music, Rev Bill Wilson.

ST JOHN'S, Stratford Broadway: 11 Family C, Rev David Richards. 26: 11 Family C, Rev David Richards.

ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 8, 11.30 HC; 10.30 Christmas Service, Hodie (Sweelinck), Symphonie V (Widor), Rev Sheila Watson. 26: 8 HC; 10.30 MP and HC, Rev Derek Watson; 6.30 EP.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 M; 10.30 Parish Euch, Mass in C (Mozart), Carols, Rev Tom Devonshire Jones. 26: 8, 10, 11 LM.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 M, Jubilate (Walton), I saw three ships (Ledger), Rev Roger Holloway; 12.15 HC.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 10.30 Euch, Rev John Pridmore; 6.30 Family Carol Service. 26: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch, Rev Bernhard Schunemann; 11.30 Visitors to London Service, The Vicar; 2.45 Chinese Service, Rev Gilbert Lee; 6.30 ES, Rev John Pridmore.

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9 LM; 10.30 HM, Missa octavi toni (Lassus).

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Festival Euch, Ireland in C, Rev Lyndon van der Pump. 26: 8 HC; 10.30 Parish Euch, English Folk Mass; 4 E.

ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8 HC; 10 Choral Euch, Missa Solemnis (Mozart), Hodie Christus natus est (Mareizio). 26: 11 HC with Carols.

ST MICHAEL'S, Cornhill, EC3: 11 Procession & Choral Euch.

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 Solemn Euch, Missa Brevis in F (Haydn), Rev Neil Dawson. 26: 8, 9 HC; 11 Solemn Euch with Carols, Rev Henry Ruschmeyer.

ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Family Euch; 11 S Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells), I wonder as I wonder (Spiritual), I saw three ships (Lloyd), Sortie (Mulet, Rev Fr Alan Chidwick. 26: 8.15 HC; 10 Family Euch; 11 S Euch, Missa O Magnum Mysterium (Victoria), Balulalow (Shaw), Away in a Manger (Afton Water), Rev Fr Desmond Tillyer.

ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW7: Midnight Solemn M, Missa Sancti Nicolai (Haydn), Canon Christopher Colven; 8, 9 LM; 11 Solemn M, Missa Brevis (Gabrieli). 26: 8, 9 LM; 11 Solemn M, Messe ohne Gloria und Credo (Bruckner), Bishop of Fulham.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 11.15 S Euch, Jackson in G, Rev WJ Booth. 26: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Coventry Carol, Rev GD Watkins.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC; 11 M, Ireland in F, On this day (HC Stewart). 26: 8.30 HC; 11 M, Wood in E, Personent hodie (Holst); 3.30 E, Coventry Carol, Wood in G, And there were shepherds (Bach).

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1: 11 Solemn Euch, Missa Brevis (Bryan Kelly), Carillon (Vierne). 26: 11 S Euch.

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 S Euch, Darke in F. The Chaplain.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP & HC, Vaughan Williams in G, Dyson in D, In dulci jubilo (Bach), The Master. 26: 11.15 Sung HC, Three Parts (Byrd), A Great and Mighty Wonder (Praetorius), Carillon (Herbert Murrill), The Master.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M, Hodie Christus natus est (Sweelinck), There were shepherds abiding in the fields (Handel), Fanfare & Fugue from a Christmas Suite (Barker), Band of the Welsh Guards, The Chaplain; 12 HC. 26: 11 M, I saw three ships (Willcocks), O magnum mysterium (Poulenc), Fugue from The Christmas Suite (Barker), Band of the Life Guards, The Chaplain; 12 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: 10.30 S Euch, A sound of angels (Tye), The Chaplain.

Today's services are on the facing page

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PRIVATE: 071 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

FAX: 071 481 9313
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Peter began: 'I now understand how true it is that God has no favourites, but that in every nation those who are god-fearing and do what is right are acceptable to him.' Acts of the Apostles 10:34 (REB)

BIRTHS

BUNTING - On December 18th, to Sarah (née Hunt) and Tim, a daughter, Minna, a sister for Clementine.
CHRISTMAS - On 23rd December, to Sarah and Stephen, a daughter, Emily Louise.
CRAWFORD - On December 15th 1993, to Charlotte (née Baker) and James, a daughter, Amelia Charlotte Sophie.
EASBY - On December 20th, to Diane (née Kitching) and Graham, a daughter, Wallis Paige Agnes.
HOSER - On 14th December, to Tessa (née Grolman) and Philip, a son, Matthew Joel, a brother for Benjamin and Alexander.
LAVERY - To Hilary (née Patton) and James, a daughter, Caroline on the 8th of November in Belfast - a sister for Alice, John, Michael and Paul.
MASON - On December 14th to Nicola (née Maguire) and Jonathan, a beautiful daughter Eleanor Margaret.
O'DONNELL - On 21st of September, 1993 at The Margot Perot Hospital, Dallas, Texas to Jane (née Hunt) and Hugh, a son, Robert Andrew James, a brother for Christopher and Nicola.
STEVENS - On December 19th, to Amanda (née Swallow) and Tom, a daughter, Alice, a sister for Redmond.
VARTI - On 16th December 1993, at Hemel Hempstead D.G.H., to Karen (née Gibson) and Gianni, a beautiful daughter, Georgia.
WALKER - To Angus and Sarah (née Weatherald), a son, Barnaby James, born 14th December 1993.
WALLIS - To Caroline and Richard on December 21st a brother for May, Hugh Thomas Trevor.
WASHBOURNE - On December 17th 1993, to Karen and Ray, a son, Drew. With grateful thanks for all gifts given and care received.

MARRIAGES

MICHALOPOULOS: HUTCHINGS - On December 22nd, in London, Nikos Michalopoulos to Sophia Hutchings.

DEATHS

AWDRY - On 23rd December, peacefully at Highfield, Marlborough, Joan. Wife of the late Neville Awdry of Chippenham, much loved mother of Richard and Philip, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral Service private. Service of Thanksgiving at Ogbourne St Andrew on January 4th 1994 at midday.
BANO - Emmerich of Ruislip, peacefully at home on 22nd December 1993. Funeral on Thursday 30th December at Breakspear Crematorium at 11.30 am. Family flowers only but donations if desired to the Musicians Benevolent Fund.
FLAWN - Passed away peacefully at home on 22nd December, Mark aged 52. Beloved husband of Liz, devoted father of Clare and Guy, dear son of Eric and Josephine and loved twin brother of Peter. Service at High Street Methodist Church, Harpenden, on Friday 31st December at 12 noon. Family flowers only but donations to Mark Flawn Young People's Travel Bursary. Donations and enquiries to L.C. Weston, Funeral Directors, No.28, 17 Leyton Road, Harpenden, Herts. tel: (0582) 712865.
GAMINARA - Bill aged 80, beloved husband, father and grandfather, peacefully at home on December 22nd. Cremation at Yeovil Crematorium on Wednesday December 29th at 3 pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired for The Phoenix Club (Yeovil Speech after Stroke Group) c/o Irish and Denman F/D, Palmer Street, South Petherton, Somerset TA13 5DB.
GUMERSALL - On 18th December 1993, after a long illness, Arthur Geoffrey Stewart, very dear friend of Brenda and caring stepfather to Tanis and her family. Funeral private, no flowers but donations if desired to Rotary Trust Fund Epsom c/o Gumersall Moss and Partners, 16 Waterloo Road, Epsom KT19 8AZ. Memorial Service will be held in mid January. Details to follow.
HADOW - On December 22nd, peacefully at home after a long illness borne with dignity, Sir (Reginald) Michael Hadow KCMG. Funeral private at Michael's request.
HEPBURNE SCOTT - Peacefully in hospital in Haddington on December 21st 1993, Deborah Hepburne Scott (née Castle), wife of Walter Schomberg Hepburne Scott. A service will be held at Warriston Crematorium Cloister Chapel on Thursday 6th January at 11.45 am.
HIGGINS - Brian Lee peacefully in hospital on December 18th aged 87 years. Dearly loved husband of Mary. Funeral service at All Saints Church Combe-in-Teignhead, on Thursday 30th December at 1 p.m., followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Rowcroft Hospice, Torquay.
HILL - On December 21st 1993, peacefully at her home in Lewes, East Sussex, Amy Priscilla, widow of Robin, late of Barton, Cambridge, aged 87 years. Committal Service to take place at Woodvale Crematorium, Brighton, on Thursday December 30th at 2.15 pm. Thanksgiving Service to take place at Barton Parish Church, Cambridge, on Wednesday January 5th 1994 at 11.30 am. No flowers by request. Enquiries to Cooper & Son, Funeral Service, 42 High Street, Lewes, East Sussex, tel: (0273) 475557.
MACQUEEN - Lt. Col. John, late of the R.C.T. and Royal West African Frontier Force. Died at home in Salisbury on 22nd December 1993, aged 77 years, after an illness stoically borne. Beloved husband of Dilys and father of Jane and Catherine, grandfather of Jonathan, Philada, Rowland, Guy, John, Calum and Isobel. All enquiries to I.N. Newman Ltd., Funeral Directors, Griffin House, 58 Winchester Street, Salisbury, SP1 1HL, tel: (0722) 413136.
MELLANBY - On December 23rd, peacefully at home, Prof. Kenneth Mellanby CBE aged 85. Cremation at Exeter Crematorium on Friday December 31st at 2.30 pm. Flowers to Mitchell Funeral Services, King William Street, Exeter EX4 6PD, tel: (0392) 72682. Memorial Service to be arranged later in Cambridge.
MITCHELL - On December 21st 1993, Joan Margaret (Peggy). Enquiries to E.R. Hickmott & Son, tel: (0892) 822462.
O'CONOR - Isabella Mary Amy (Molly) née Chitty. Very peacefully in her sleep on 22nd December 1993 at Nazareth House, Oxford, aged 88. Much loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. The Requiem Mass will be said at Nazareth House on Wednesday 29th December at 10 am followed by interment at Botley Cemetery. Flowers or, if preferred, donations for 'Action Aid' may be sent to Reeves & Pain, 288 Abingdon Road, Oxford OX1 4TE.
PROSPER - Hazel, O.B.E., on Thursday 16th December aged 67 years. She will be sadly missed. Funeral service to be held at Croydon Crematorium on Thursday 30th December at 2.00pm. Family flowers only. Donations to Cancer Research Fund.
QUILTER - On December 22nd 1993 at Parkside Hospital, London SW19, Bryan Quilter C.B.E. Very dear husband of Diana, proud father of Sarah-Jane and Nigel, father-in-law of Robert and a loving Bryan to his grandson Philip Ainscow. Funeral Service at Putney Vale Crematorium on Wednesday 5th January 1994 at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only, but donations if desired to Imperial Cancer Research Fund c/o T.H. Sanders & Sons, 12-14 Medfield Street, London SW15.
RITCHIE - Professor Horace David, passed away on Tuesday 21st December, loving father of Gordon, Andrew and Bruce; service and cremation on January 4th in private; donations if wished to 'Surgical Research, Surgical Unit, London Hospital Medical College, Whitechapel'.
ROGET - On 20th December 1993, John Romilly, suddenly at Whitfield, aged 88, formerly of Smeeth. No flowers. Cremation at Charing Crematorium Friday 31st December at 2pm.
SCOTT - Lillian, peacefully in Eastbourne, 19th December 1993. Beloved wife of Kenneth, dearly loved mother of Beryl and Angela, treasured grandmother and great-grandmother. Service at St Andrew's United Reform Church, Eastbourne, on Tuesday 4th January 1994 at 11.15 am. Enquiries to Haine & Son Ltd. (0323) 727801.
SCOTT - Thomas, peacefully in his sleep on December 22nd 1993 in Cheltenham. Funeral at 2 pm on Friday 31st December at Cheltenham Crematorium. No flowers, donations to R.N.L.I. c/o Selim Smith & Co., 74 Prestbury Road, Cheltenham.
SHILLIDY - Florence Maud, MBE, on 23rd December 1993 peacefully after a short illness in the West Suffolk Hospital, Bury St Edmunds. Very dearly loved and most loving wife of John and a cousin widely loved in both England and Ireland. Cremation at Bury St Edmunds Crematorium on Friday 31st December at 3pm. Family flowers only but donations, if desired, to the Hearing Research Trust, 330/332 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8EE.
SWAYTHLING - The Dowager Lady Jean, C.B.E., beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, died 13th December 1993, aged 84. A private family funeral has taken place at her request.
TALMA STHEEMAN - On 23rd December 1993, peacefully in hospital, Sape aged 66, dear husband of Cécile and loving father of Paul and Robert. Funeral Service and interment at Ocklynge Cemetery, Eastbourne, on Friday 31st December at 11.30 am. Enquiries to Adela Funeral Homes, tel: (0323) 643999.
TURNHAM - On December 23rd 1993, peacefully at home, James Douglas Frankland I.S.O. Devoted husband of Margot, adored father of Sally, Carol and beloved grandfather of Nicholas, Jamie, Joanna, Kirstie and Rory. Family flowers only, but donations to the Civil Service Benevolent Fund would be much appreciated. Funeral Service at St Mary's Church, Beaconsfield, on Friday 31st December at 3.30 pm. All enquiries tel: (0494) 672668.
TURTON - On December 17th 1993, Gervaise Mary A.G.S.M., L.T.C.L., aged 94 at Abbey Chase, Chertsey. Burial private. No flowers at her request, but donations may be sent to the Musicians Benevolent Fund, c/o Guillaume & Sons, 56 Church Street, Weybridge, Surrey, KT13 8DR. Service of Thanksgiving and Party, St Peter's Parish Church, Chertsey, Friday 4th February 1994 at 12 noon. Enquiries: Mrs P.J. Gaskin, 0932 840111.
VERNEY - Myra, peacefully on 21st December aged 88 at the Wellington Hospital. Funeral at Golders Green Crematorium, West Chapel, Friday 31st December at 1.30 pm. No flowers by request, donations to Marie Curie Cancer Care, 28 Belgrave Sq., SW1X 8QG.
WANSEY - On December 20th 1993, peacefully in the Ipswich Hospital, Renée, loving and loved mother and grandmother. Funeral Service at St Mary's Church, Woodbridge, at 12 noon on Wednesday 29th December. Family flowers only, donations if desired to the N.S.P.C.C., c/o E.B. Button & Sons Ltd., 24 St Johns Street, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 1EB.

IN MEMORIAM – PRIVATE

ASQUITH - Simon, died December 18th 1973. Think about you, miss you, love you always. Vivien.
MORRIS - In memory of my beloved mother Jenny who died Christmas Day 1992. Darling Mummy God bless you and keep you safe with Dad. Thinking of you now at this special time of year that will be forever yours, with love from Janie.
PARIKIAN - Manoug. In loving memory of Manoug Parikian who died on Christmas Eve 1987.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DUE to health I am not able to send cards but I thank everybody for the nice cards they sent me. Mrs Barbara Vellows.
I, Stephen Terence Willox, hereby declare that I have embraced Islam and shall henceforth be known as Imran Ali Ahmad.
MRS. Mildred Ingle of Sidcup wishes to be known as Elizabeth Mildred Ingle.

WANTED

Perfect Christmas required circa 25th December 1993. Must include peace on earth and goodwill to all men and women with overflowing stocking, and a New Year that brings happiness and prosperity.



Seasons greetings from Alfred Dunhill.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity - The Hermitage at Shepherd's Law administered in connection with The Brothers of the First Order of the Society of St Francis. The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for this charity. A copy can be seen for the next month at Stanton Croft, 46 Grainger Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 5LB or a copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St Alban's House, 57/60 Haymarket, London, SW1Y 4QX, quoting reference number MOT-236464A/1-CD(L4n1).

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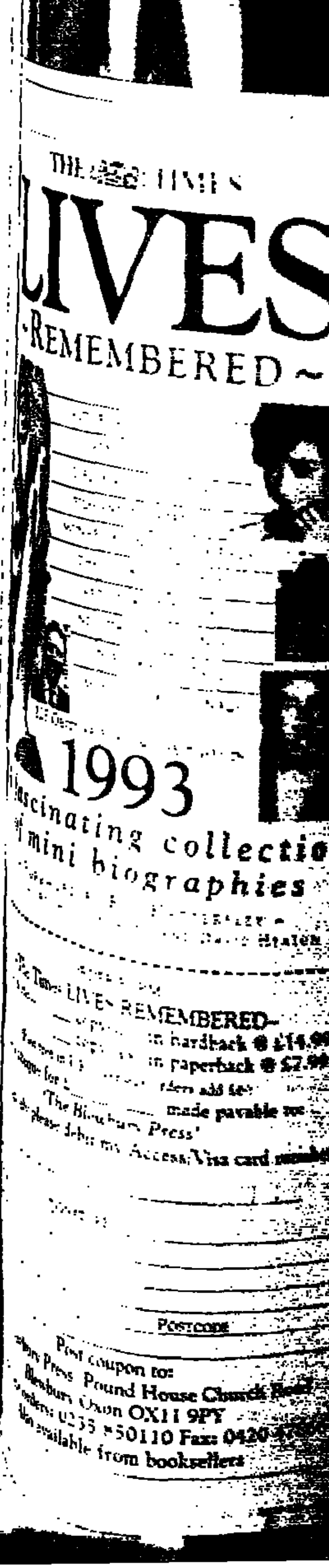
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XMAS GREETINGS

'CHRISTMAS greetings'. Bettie Soake sends best wishes for Christmas and New Year to all her friends.
COLONNADE HOTEL, London W9 1ER. 071 286 1052. To all our friends of the past 45 years, particularly those of the 71 different nationalities who we greeted in this last year alone. Greetings & thanks for all your cards. A very happy Xmas and a Joyful New Year to you all. From three generations of the Richards Family spanning the last 45 years, together with: Barry the Plummer, 33 years, Evan of the Ephemera, 33 years, Tony the Master of Mince Pies, 33 years, Ken the Decorator, 30 years, Luisa, Mistress of Chamber, 25 years. Giles, Pestis, Sabah, Bert, Martha, Jackie - all with 10 years + Colin, Christian, Neil all 5 years plus, Daniel, Magda, Marzena, Anna, Mrs Ryan, Patrick, Kirstan & Elizabeth all 2 Years plus. Not forgetting Mouse the cat & Horace the canary 3 years service.
WHERE love reigns the impossible may be attained. Thinking of you. Dimples.
WILBRAHAM Arthur Lloyd - Happy Christmas, Can we meet in 1994. Pearl. Box No 5356

THE TIMES
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OBITUARIES

KENNETH MELLANBY

Kenneth Mellanby, CBE, ecological consultant, died yesterday aged 85. He was born on March 26, 1908.

AS THE first director of the Nature Conservancy's Monks Wood Experimental Station, near Huntingdon, Kenneth Mellanby was in charge of a team which carried out some excellent research into the wider ecological effects of modern farming. But it was as a maverick figure within the scientific establishment, who at times seemed to enjoy courting controversy, that he will best be remembered.

Kenneth Mellanby came from a distinguished scientific family: his father, A. L. Mellanby was Professor of Engineering at Glasgow; one uncle, John, was Waynflete Professor of Physiology at Oxford; another uncle, Sir Edward, was one of the pioneers — with his wife, May — on vitamin research. Kenneth never quite achieved real academic distinction; but in the half-world of scientific administration he was outstandingly valuable. His wit was perhaps too sharp and too capricious for him to achieve the highest in administration.

He was educated at Barnard Castle School and King's College, Cambridge, where he was an exhibitioner and read entomology. Afterwards he worked as a researcher at the London School for Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, where he developed Patrick Buxton's ideas on the susceptibility of various insect parasites of man to dessication and overheating. In 1936 he took up the Sorby Research Fellowship at Sheffield, and was made director of the Sorby Research Institute in 1941.

It was Mellanby's wartime work at Sorby with a group of conscientious objectors that first brought him to the fore of scientific debate. Mellanby's research concerned scabies, an intensely itchy skin disease caused by the mite Sarcoptes. About two million people were then suffering from it and the Government feared it would spread in air raid shelters. Mellanby's investigations greatly clarified understanding of the condition and its transmission, revolutionising treatment. But the price paid by his volunteers was to wear, day and night, dirty underwear discarded by scabies patients. Some of them contracted the infection itself.

Mellanby was unstinting in his praise for the fortitude of his helpers, many of whom, as conscientious objectors, were almost suicidally determined in their desire not to appear cowardly. So successful was the scabies project that some Sorby volunteers were asked to help with other studies, ranging from nutritional tests which showed how much calcium should be added to National Wheatmeal flour or how much vitamin C we require, to more hazardous investigations into the minimal fluid intake needed for human survival.

Many of Mellanby's colleagues felt strongly that "live" experiments should stop with the chimpanzee. Mellanby disagreed: "If it is justifiable in wartime for men to risk their lives for, say a small objective like a machinegun post, surely it is equally justifiable for them to risk their lives for a major medical objective, which may eventually save countless lives." The excellent results he obtained led him to suggest the need for a permanent institute devoted to human experimentation. His idea bore fruit in the form of the Medical Research Council's Common Cold Unit, based near Salisbury and founded towards the end of the war.

In 1946 Mellanby found himself embroiled in another controversy. At the invitation of the *British Medical Journal*, he flew to Nuremberg to be present at the trials, and to investigate the results obtained by Nazi doctors from "scientific experiments" on the inmates of concentration camps. Mellanby maintained that the results should be made available to bona fide investigators, while others were arguing that they should be destroyed, uncopied and unrecorded. Mellanby spent three weeks in Germany, sifting through reports of British intelligence officers at Frankfurt and attending the trials of the Nazi doctors and scientists. Treatment of typhus and malaria, he maintained, could benefit from studying their conclusions, however



inhuman their experiments were.

The following year Mellanby was designated principal of the proposed University College, Ibadan, in Nigeria. At first it had no buildings, no staff except himself, and of course no students, and Mellanby's haste to match the speed of educational reform with that of political reform often brought him into conflict with the Colonial Office, at whose request he had gone out there. He left Ibadan, in 1953, by then a going concern with fine buildings, a carefully chosen staff, and several hundred equally carefully chosen students, and was appointed CBE for his work in 1954 (having been appointed OBE in 1945).

Meanwhile, Mellanby had been ill with shingles — which marred what had been an exceptionally handsome face — and he was still in poor health when he was appointed Head of the Entomology Department at Rothamsted Experimental Station in 1955. His six years there were not outstanding but subsequent years were. In 1961 he was made director of the Nature Conservancy's new Monks Wood Experimental Station, which was floated on the rising tide of concern for the environment. Just like Ibadan, but on a smaller scale, Mellanby created, from nothing, the largest and most active laboratory of its kind in the country.

Mellanby had a flair for pleasing politicians and other visitors to Monks Wood when he set out to use it; and he had an easy, attractive and personal style of lecturing. But he was constantly at loggerheads with pressure groups, particularly the amateur conservationists with their predictions of impending doom. At the same time he was a great admirer of the late Rachel Carson, (whose book, *Silent Spring*, had first prompted the outcry against DDT). And he supported the theory of the effects of organochlorine insecticides on populations of peregrine falcons. Objective scientists disagreed with him on both matters; indeed, the Wilson Committee of the Department of Education and Science found the peregrine story unconvincing. But in the event Mellanby's *Pesticides and Pollution* (1967) turned out to be the most well-balanced account of the subject until 1972, when W. B. Yapp's *Production, Pollution, Protection* appeared.

Mellanby was president of the Institute of Biology, 1972-73, and an active member of several of its committees.

After leaving Monks Wood, Mellanby became a consultant, editor and writer. His advisory work on conservation, development and land changes for such diverse bodies as the World Bank and several ministries, took him to Korea, Peru and Australia. At the same time, his founder editorship of the journal *Environmental Pollution* kept him in touch with pollution research all over the world.

He wrote a dozen books. In *Can Britain Feed Itself* (1975) he argued that Britain could feed itself perfectly adequately and mainly on cereals, be self-sufficient and have land over to use in other ways, including nature conservation. His last book, *The DDT Story*, (1992) brought him back to the research he had first done in the war. He was, to the last, fascinated in assessing the balance between the undoubted evils and the clear medical benefits of the use of DDT — and he always started his lectures on DDT by eating some, much to the horror of his audience.

He married, first, Helen Neilson Dow. That marriage was dissolved. He is survived by Jean Copeland, whom he married in 1948, their son and a daughter from the first marriage.

HANNAH STANTON

Hannah Stanton, missionary and social worker, died in Esher, Surrey, on December 9 aged 80. She was born in Teddington, Middlesex, on November 30, 1913.

HANNAH STANTON was an Anglican missionary, based in Pretoria, who briefly made the news in the early 1960s after her ordeal at the hands of the South African government, when she was deported from the country. She subsequently became one of the best assets of the anti-apartheid cause abroad.

Her first visit to South Africa, in 1956, was intended to combine a holiday with a visit to her brother, who was a priest in the Community of the Resurrection. As a result of that visit, she was asked to become warden of an Anglican missionary settlement — Tumelong or "the place of faith" — in the sprawling black township of Lady Selborne on the edge of Pretoria. Under Hannah Stanton's direction, Tumelong and its offshoots thrived.

She had come to South Africa with an open mind, having read Trevor Huddleston's book, *Naught for your Comfort*, but feeling that the picture it gave of the South African situation was exaggerated. She later changed her mind on that, but her commitment to the anti-apartheid cause in those early days was a slight one. She joined the Liberal Party, though she seldom attended meetings, wrote a few letters to the press protesting about police brutality at a peaceful demonstration at Tumelong and once met the then ANC president, Chief Luthuli. But, apart from her work at the mission, she took no part in public life.

In the aftermath of the Sharpeville massacre in 1960, however, the suspicions of the authorities began to fall indiscriminately on known white liberals. Hannah Stanton was visited by the police, who confiscated various pieces of unsensational literature and, a few days later on March 30, she was arrested in the middle of the night. She was detained with hundreds of others under the state of emergency, and held for several weeks in solitary confinement. Afterwards she was allowed to share a cell with Helen Joseph, a campaigner on behalf of the ANC. Through her, Hannah Stanton met Nelson Mandela, who was acting as an attorney for those who had been arrested for treason.

After three months of this, Hannah Stanton's presence became an embarrassment to the South African government. She was deported to England, without trial, as an undesirable and banned from ever returning. Back in Britain she found that her ordeal had made her a celebrity. In addition to numerous television interviews and an appearance on *Panorama*, she threw herself onto the public lecture circuit. Her account of her time in South Africa, *Go Well, Stay Well*, appeared in 1961.

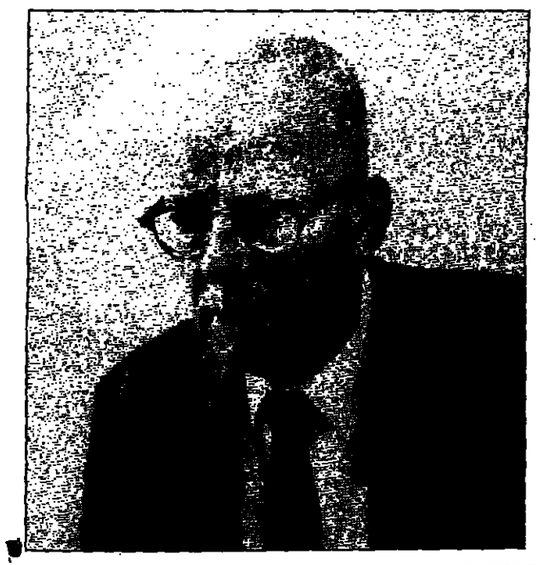
A woman of strong Anglo-Catholic convictions, Hannah Margaret Stanton's whole life had been one of service to others. After reading English at University College London, she worked as a hospital almoner in Liverpool. In 1945 she enlisted with the Friends Relief Service, distributing food and clothes at refugee camps in Austria. She then considered joining Lilias Graham's pioneering social programme in the Gorbals district of Glasgow, but instead took another degree, from Oxford, in theology.

In 1962 Hannah Stanton returned to Africa, this time to Uganda as warden of Mary Stuart Hall — the women's hall of residence at the University of Makerere, Kampala. She stayed there for eight years, at a time, before Idi Amin came to power, when the reputation of Makerere was second to none, and championed equal opportunities for African women.

On her return to England she moved back to her family home in Hampton Hill and became increasingly involved in the work of the World Conference of Religions for Peace. Hannah Stanton travelled the world raising money for the cause — the Far East, China, Australia and New Zealand. She was active in CND and the anti-apartheid movement and was pleased, in her last years, to be able to return to South Africa. She never married.



W. EDWARDS DEMING



W. Edwards Deming, an American management expert whose revolutionary ideas were largely responsible for the postwar economic miracle in Japan, died in Washington on December 20 aged 93. He was born in Sioux City, Iowa, on October 14, 1900.

IF THERE was ever a prophet without honour in his own country, it was Edwards Deming. His message was simple: treat workers as partners rather than adversaries; encourage them to use their minds as well as their hands; concentrate on quality production rather than quantity.

Sensible though it might seem, such a thesis was rank heresy to American management in the years that followed the Second World War. As inheritors of the only industrial economy to survive the devastation intact, the Americans could sell all the goods their factories could produce: good, bad, or indifferent. Improved quality, they believed, would only mean higher costs, and workers were there to work, not think. They refused to listen to Deming. Not so the Japanese.

Ironically, Deming was initially invited to Japan in 1950 because industrialists there thought he could teach them the secrets of the industrial giant that had brought about their crushing defeat in the war. Lacking natural resources or a colonial empire, they knew they could only prosper by selling products on the world market. Deming taught them how to do it, but the ideas were his own, not those of America.

At the time Deming was an obscure statistician who just happened to have conducted some research on quality-control methods during the war — which was what brought him to the attention of the Japanese. He delivered a series of lectures, arguing that most product defects were the result of management shortcomings rather than the carelessness of workers, and that designing better processes was superior to inspection after the fact.

Enlisting the efforts of willing workers to do things properly the first time, and giving them the right tools, said Deming, were better guarantees of quality than teams of inspectors. The ideas were eagerly embraced, and Japanese companies soon began achieving enormous commercial success.

Deming became the best-known American in Japan after General Douglas MacArthur, and a prize was established in his name for companies that made the most striking advances in quality. Despite these achievements, Deming remained almost unknown in his native country, where management policies continued as before.

But by the late 1970s, when the American consumer electronics industry had been driven almost out of existence by such Japanese brands as Sony and Panasonic, and fuel-efficient Japanese cars were beginning to crowd American roads, it dawned on some companies that Deming might be right.

One of the first to enlist his help was the Ford Motor Company, which was losing hundreds of millions of dollars. Visiting the firm's Dearborn headquarters in 1981, Deming shocked senior executives by calling into question their entire corporate culture. But the bruised egos survived, and so did Ford, leading the American car industry in much-needed quality improvements.

Xerox followed suit, and so did many other leading corporations, though Deming's blunt approach and insistence on delivering his message exclusively to top management frequently gave offence. "Can you blame your competitors for your woes?" he would ask them. "No. Can you blame the Japanese? No. You did it yourself."

Under his guidance, companies which were prepared to listen began eliminating such cherished management perquisites as private dining rooms and special parking spaces because, Deming said, workers found them offensive. Instead of production quotas and performance ratings, Deming urged a management philosophy based on co-operative problem-solving, exhorting managers to "drive out fear" from the workplace.

A frugal man in his personal life, Deming was a fanatical opponent of waste, and was known to date the eggs in his refrigerator so that the oldest would be eaten first. Though he earned considerable sums in his later years, criss-crossing the United States to conduct seminars until well into his nineties, he never established a formal organisation. Instead, he preferred to work on his own from an office in the basement of his modest Washington home.

Deming, whose family roots reached back to the Revolutionary War, grew up poor and worked at odd jobs while he studied engineering at the University of Wyoming.

In the mid-1930s, while working for the US Agriculture Department, he took a year's leave of absence to study statistics at the University of London under Sir Ronald Fisher. It was this which led to his wartime work, helping military planners to apply statistics to the production of supplies.

Edwards Deming is survived by two daughters.

CDR RICHARD TORBOCK

Commander Richard Torbock, wartime aircraft carrier captain, died on November 14 aged 89. He was born on January 27, 1904.

RICHARD TORBOCK served the bulk of his war in two very different ships, the battleship *Valiant*, one of the Royal Navy's stalwarts of First World War vintage, and the aircraft carrier *Chaser*, hastily built for her Battle of the Atlantic role in American dockyards.

He joined *Valiant* shortly after the outbreak of war, in November 1939, and served in her for the next two-and-a-half years. For much of this time, under her captain, the remarkable Bernard "Stormy" Rawlings, she was in the thick of things; she covered the evacuation from Narvik during the Norwegian campaign, she was on Atlantic and Arctic convoys and served in the Mediterranean.

The operational "highlight" of this last period was undoubtedly the Battle of Cape Matapan, off the southern tip of Greece in March 1941, in which Italian naval power was decisively broken.

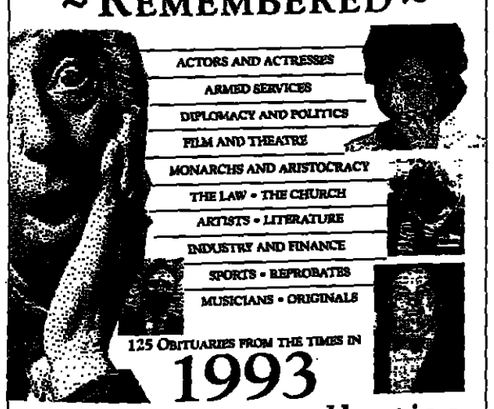
A gunnery officer in one of *Valiant's* 15-inch gun turrets on that occasion, Torbock played his part in the devastating broadsides which severely damaged the battleship *Vittorio Veneto* and sank three heavy and two light cruisers. It was virtually the last formal surface fleet action in which the Royal Navy took part. Torbock was still in *Valiant* when she was repeatedly attacked from the air during the evacuation of Crete.

In July 1942 he was given command of HMS *Chaser*, one of the "Woolworth" aircraft carriers which were made available to the Royal Navy by the US under the terms of Lend-Lease. Hastily converted from already existing merchant ship hulls in American yards, ships like *Chaser* were an invaluable reinforcement to the thinly-stretched RN carrier force in the Battle of the Atlantic, and Torbock commanded her constantly on Atlantic convoy duties until the end of the war.

Thereafter he retired to farm in Westmorland, where he was a magistrate.

THE TIMES

LIVES ~ REMEMBERED ~



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Church services today

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 7.15 MP; 7.30 HC; 4 EP; 5.30 Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols; 11.30 Midnight M, Missa Sancti Joannis de Deo (Haydn). A spotless rose (Howells), In dulci jubilo (Pearsall).
CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 11 Crib Service; 3 Carol Service; 5 E, Ireland in E, Tulit is the truth sent from above (Lloyd).
CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 3 Children's Service; 6.30 Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols; 11.30 Midnight Euch.
CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 8.45 MP; 4 Crib Service; 5.15 EP; 6 Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols; 11.30 Midnight M, The Bishop.
CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.15 MP; 7.45 HC; 4.15 Choral E, Peter Aston in F, O Little town of Bethlehem (Walford Davies); 5.15 Crib Service; 11.30 Midnight Euch.
CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC; 4.15 Blessing of the Crib; 5.30 E, Collegium Regale (Howells), Love came down (Rutter), 10.45 Vigil of Music & Readings, 11.30 Midnight Euch, Surrexit in F, The Dean.
COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 12 Litany of Reconciliation; 12.10 C; 12.40 Midday P; 3.30 Family Carol Service; 5 EP; 7 A Liturgy for Christmas Eve.
DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 7.30, 12.30 HC; 9 MP; 3 Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols; 5.15 EP.
ELY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 6.30 E, Stanford in G, Glory to God (Handel); 7 Carol Service; 11.30 Euch, Darke in E, The Lord Bishop.
LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 HC; 5.15 Festival of Nine Lessons with Carols; 11.30 S Euch, Messe de Minuit (Charpentier), Welcome, thou lovely child (Charpentier), In Dulci Jubilo (Pearsall), The Bishop.
LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.15, 8 HC; 7.40 M; 3.15 E; 4 Carol Service; 11.30 Midnight Euch, The Chancellor.
LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 5.30 E, New College Service (Howells), The Lamb (Tavener); 6.15 Blessing of the Crib; 11.30 Christmas Euch, Cathedral Choir.
LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7, 7.30 Holy Euch; 3.30 Service of Nine Lessons and Carols; 6 Festal E, Stanford in C; 11.45 Euch, The Dean.
SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 11.30pm Choral Euch, Messe de minuit (Charpentier), Quem vidistis (Poulenc), The Lamb (Tavener).
WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 9.20 M; 12 Children's Crib Service; 3.30 E; 4 Service of Lessons and Carols; 11.30 Midnight Euch, The Dean.
WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9, 10.30, 12.30, 1.05 M, Magnificat octavi toni (Marenzio), Quem vidistis pastores (Poulenc), Von Himmel hoch da komm ich her (Bach); 7.40 MP; 5.30 Vigil M of Christmas; 11.15 Solemn Vigil and MM, Krönungsmesse (Mozart), Ehre sei dir, Gott gesungen (Bach), Final symphonie (Widor).
WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 3 Children's Service; 5.30 E, Wood in D, O little town (Walford Davies), Prelude and Fugue in D major (Buxtehude); 11.35 Midnight E (BBC TV), Missa brevis (Kodaly), Hodie (Schutz), In the bleak mid winter (Harris), Prelude and Fugue in B major (Dupre), The Dean.
YORK MINSTER: 7.30 M; 7.50 HC; 12 Blessing of the Crib; 3 EP; 4 Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.
ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL Clwyd: 7 Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols; 11.45 Choral Euch, Stanford in B flat, In the bleak midwinter (Darke), In Dulci Jubilo (Pearsall).
ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 3.30 Children's Crib Service; 11.30 Carols; Midnight Concelebrated Choral M, The Archbishop.
ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 7.30 M; 8, 12.30 HC; 3 E; 4 Carol Service; 11.30 MM, Missa Brevis in C (Mozart), The Ven George Cassidy.
ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, Dundee: 11.30pm MM, Mozart in D, In dulci jubilo (Pearsall), The Provost.
ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 11.30pm C Serv, Rev S Wookey.
THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11.30pm Carols, Missa Sancti Nicolai (Haydn).
CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8, 12.30, HC; 10 Children's Service; 11 M, Hodie Christus Natus Est (Sweelinck), Bethlehem Down (Warlock), Sir Christemas (Matthias), Rev P Elvy; 12.15 HC.
CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.30pm Watchnight Service.
HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 11.30pm Midnight C Service, Rev Tom Gillum.
WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11.30pm Candlelight C.
ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 7pm Candlelight Family Carols; 11 Candlelight Choral HC, Rev Ronald T Ringlund.
ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 11.45pm Midnight Choral Euch, Missa Brevis (Palestrina), O magnum mysterium (Victoria), Rev Anthony Winter.
ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11.30pm MM, Mozart in B flat, Carols.
ST CLEMENT DANES: 11.30pm MM, Messe de Minuit (Charpentier), Hodie Christus natus est (Clerambault), Prelude to a Te Deum (Charpentier).
ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11.30pm Candlelight Service.
ST ETHELREDA'S, Ely Place: 11.30pm Carols, MM, Choral Preludes (Bach), Hodie Christus natus est nobis (Palestrina), This day Christ was born (Byrd), Piece d'orgue (Bach).
ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 5.30 Carols around the Crib; 11.30 Midnight Euch, Missa Sancti Nicolai (Haydn), Rev Bill Wilson.
ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 11.30pm Midnight Euch, Rev Derek Watson.
ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 11.30pm MM, Mass in C (Mozart), Carols, Rev Joanna Yates.
ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11.45pm Midnight Euch, Missa brevis et Solemnis in C (Mozart), O magnum mysterium (Poulenc).
ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 6.30 Family Carols; 11.30 MM.
ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 11.30 Carols and MM, Missa brevis in D (Mozart), Bishop of Fulham.
ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 6 Christingle Service; 11.30 Midnight C, The Vicar.
ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 11.30pm MM, Missa Solemnis (Mozart), Hodie Christus natus est.
ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 5 Children's Service, Rev Nell Dawson; 11.30 Solemn Midnight Euch, Missa Brevis in C (Mozart), Rev Christopher Courtauld.
ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 5 Children's Crib Service; 11.30 Procession and MM, Missa Sancta Nicolai (Haydn), Ave verum corpus (Mozart), Rev Fr Ashley Buck.
CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 11.30am Christmas HC.
CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 11pm MM.
GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1: 10.45pm Carols, 11.15 MM, St Nicholas Mass (Haydn), In Dulce Jubilo (Bach), Rev Dr Richard Marsh.
GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11.15pm Carols; 11.30 Midnight HC, Darke in F, The Chaplain.

OUR HOMELESS POOR.

There are some among our many readers whose professional duties demand that they should be out late at night. At that hour the time is past for impostors or beggars, and the outcasts who lie about, gathering warmth into groups of two and three as autumn wanes and the night winds grow chill, are a peculiar class who seldom beg and not more often steal. Many must have noticed how these people gradually vanish in winter, though not entirely so, for even on the rawest nights small groups of two or three may still be met—groups whose abject misery softens even the police, and they let them slumber on in doorways unmolested. These are members of, alast too large a class, known as the homeless poor, and let those who wish to see both how they live and how they suffer pass but one hour at the refuge for the destitute in Field-lane.

As the dusk deepens they slink in from streets and byways, old men of 60 and 70, young boys—ay, and even children, but all alike in misery,—faint, wet, and weary. They sit upon the sloppy ground in silence more impressive than the loudest complaints; or, if they speak at all, it is in whispers, for want and suffering have quailed their spirits, and they move with an abject deference painful to see from the paths of the very few who pass that way. As soon as a moderate number have collected the doors of the refuge are opened to its wretched tenants, and so remain open until the little cribs are filled with their full number of 300 outcasts.

A difference is very properly made between the treatment of the men and that of the women—the latter, instead of lying on the boards, have each a straw-stuffed mattress and extra rug, while, through the benevolent ministry of some kind ladies, a large cup of hot coffee is given to them with the 8oz loaf provided by the refuge at night and morning. For obvious reasons, too, it opens to receive its hapless victims as soon as darkness falls, for the kind managers of the refuge know what the law appears to be ignorant of, that it is dangerous to allow these famine clung and friendless girls upon the streets at night. At 7, therefore (except those that work for the Jew slop houses in Houndsditch), they are mostly all assembled and sit, women and children, in two long rows drying their wretched garments near the stove; so worn and famished-looking that it wrings the heart to see them crouching moodily together with the silence of exhaustion and despair upon them all. At the first glance they seem to be all women of a middle age, but this is only the effect of care and hardship on their young frames, for a majority of them are under 20, while but too many are mere children. Others come in by and by in twos and threes, walking heavily and slowly, with their worn dresses—too light and cool for summer wear—barely covering their poor thin forms. The last comers have been working at the slop houses, where by incessant labour from 8 in the morning till 8 at night they can earn 2¼d per day, finding their own cotton, needles, and tapes, and paying each 1d a week *for the use of the room they work in.* Why don't these people go to the workhouse indeed? Would they not if they could?

ON THIS DAY

December 24 1858

Christmas Eve was seen as a telling time to describe the wretched conditions under which the homeless poor lived in 19th century London.

NEWS

Sinn Fein blow for peace initiative

■ Martin McGuinness, a leading member of Sinn Fein, dealt a severe blow to John Major's Northern Ireland peace initiative last night when he said the Downing Street declaration was too weak to persuade the IRA to end the violence.

Mr McGuinness was speaking as the IRA announced a 72-hour holiday ceasefire ..... **Pages 1, 15**

Clinton business links investigated

■ The American Justice Department is considering seeking a subpoena to force President Clinton and his wife, Hillary, to release a key file on their links with a bankrupt Arkansas financier, according the *The Wall Street Journal*. The department is investigating the financier ..... **Pages 1, 11**

Soldiers released

Four patrolling British soldiers in Bosnia were kidnapped and released by Muslims ..... **Pages 1, 9**

Children held

Gunmen in Rostov-on-Don took 12 Russian schoolchildren and their teacher hostage and commandeered a helicopter to fly to Iran ..... **Page 1**

Joyful shepherds

The Transport and General Workers's Union wants double-time-and-a-half for its shepherds on Christmas Day ..... **Page 1**

Arts chief named

Lord Gowrie, art dealer and former arts ministers, is the new Arts Council chairman ..... **Page 3**

Holiday health

About 1,500 stand-in doctors will run the Christmas health service for £650 each ..... **Page 4**

Criminal record

Duane Daniels, 19, drug addict and gang leader, was jailed for 10 years for 959 crimes ..... **Page 5**

Marines cleared

Two marines who killed a Sinn Fein member in South Armagh were cleared of murder ..... **Page 2**

Coroner's plea

The Manchester coroner pleaded to those shielding the killers of Benji Stanley, 14, of Moss Side, to name them ..... **Page 5**

New Haiti threat

Haiti has been threatened with tougher sanctions without a return to democracy ..... **Page 11**

Killer floods

At least five people have died and thousands moved from their homes in Germany after more flooding ..... **Page 9**

Russian pacts

Russia and Turkmenistan have signed pacts on dual citizenship and border defence ..... **Page 9**

Wind chill

Gales have closed three of Britain's biggest wind-power farms, triggering fears that they are technically unsound ..... **Page 7**

Bigger home from home in the desert

■ Rising 30 storeys above the Nevada desert, the new $1 billion (£660 million) MGM Grand hotel, casino and theme park in Las Vegas is aimed at the family, not just high-rolling gamblers. It has 18,000 doors, 5,005 rooms and some suites are three times the size of the average family home ..... **Page 11**

CHRIS HARRIS



The bustle of Oxford Street in London yesterday typifies the Christmas shopping rush throughout Britain. Reports pages 3, 6

BUSINESS

Lloyd's: The insurance market yesterday admitted that virtually every name had been offered the wrong amount of compensation as part of the £900 million settlement plan. In the latest setback to its credibility, Lloyd's said that it had brought in a team of accountants for a week to recalculate the details of the settlement, which is intended to end a mass of legal actions ..... **Page 19**

Airways: Growing tension between Britain and American aviation officials was underlined as the US allowed British Airways and USAir, its American associate, to fly as one airline into 28 US cities — but for just three more months ..... **Page 19**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index rose 40.8 points to close at 3396.5, a fresh closing high. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 81.4 to 81.7 after a rise from $1.4935 to $1.5025 and from DM2.5412 to DM2.5479 ..... **Pages 1, 19, 22**

SPORT

Motor racing: Ferrari seem close to mounting a realistic Formula One challenge for 1994 with a settled driver line-up and a new car that is performing impressively in testing ..... **Page 28**

Rugby Union: Had Canada faced any of the top five clubs in Wales instead of the national team, they might have been put in their place. Gerald Davies on a conundrum for the Welsh selectors ..... **Page 31**

Cricket: Martin Bicknell returned from injury to take two for 29 as England A notched a seventh successive victory, beating a Western Province side by 19 runs in Cape Town ..... **Page 32**

Football: John Fashanu will find out today if he is to be charged over the incident that left Gary Mabbutt, the Tottenham player, with severe facial injuries. An FA commission of enquiry adjourned after a four-hour meeting without reaching a decision ..... **Page 32**

WEEKEND

Little town of Bedlam: Paul Heiney on a theatrical miracle ..... **Page 1**

Where bourbon is king: Denis Archdeacon on the intoxicating pleasures of Kentucky ..... **Page 2**

A clockwork package: The world's finest railway took Nigel Williamson to the birthplace of Alpine skiing ..... **Page 2**

Christmas preparations: *Times* staff outline their holiday peacekeeping initiatives ..... **Page 3**

Serious treats: Frances Bissell's glamour dishes with caviare, champagne and oysters ..... **Page 5**

Shepherds of Hoy: A carol by Sir Peter Maxwell Davies and George Mackay Brown ..... **Page 7**

Thinking Christmas: Two pages of quizzes, puzzles and games for after dinner ..... **Pages 8, 9**

And after all: Head for the shops with two pages guiding you to sales around the country ..... **Pages 12, 13**

FEATURES

Why the risk?: The Valerie Grove interview with Sally Becker on why she puts her life on the line in Bosnia ..... **Page 13**

Christmas fear: Margot Norman on why it is not always better to give than to receive ..... **Page 13**

Holiday reading: Famous people make their selection ..... **Page 12**

ARTS

Star Trek to Scrooge: The actor Patrick Stewart in all 40 roles in a one-man production of Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* at the Old Vic from Tuesday ..... **Weekend page 18**

Babes and beauties: Lynne Truss reviews the final instalment of *Hollywood Women* and Channel 4's *The Babe Business*, or the model trade ..... **Weekend page 18**

Offenbach revived: The Bastille Opera in Paris stages a revival of Offenbach's operetta *Les Brigands* ..... **Weekend page 18**

VISION

The stunning emotional power of *Porgy and Bess* is intact (BBC2, Boxing Day, 5.50pm) ..... **Page 3**

John Gielgud on his part in Chekhov's *Swan Song* (C4, Christmas Day, 8.30pm) ..... **Page 4**

OPINION

The word made flesh

Incarnation is the shocking centre of Christian faith, which dares to claim that in a single human life the Creator knew his creation from the inside ..... **Page 15**

Lord of arts

Lord Gowrie must trumpet the intrinsic value of the arts, and infuse his political masters with his own cultural fervour ..... **Page 15**

Partridge in a pear tree

Who would need all those ill-assorted birds moulting and squawking, the lords hirpling around with sprained ankles? ..... **Page 15**

COLUMNISTS

BERNARD LEVIN

Bachelors are very welcome at Christmas. Consider the very act of giving presents: somewhere is a resonating image, of gold, frankincense and myrrh ..... **Page 14**

JANET BUSH

John Major missed the point when he said universal nursery education must remain an ambition because the government lacks resources ..... **Page 14**

LETTERS

Fears of fall in ordained strength of the Church of England ..... **Page 15**

Gerry Adams is disingenuous when he asks for unconditional talks and yet suggests that a release of IRA prisoners may be a condition of those talks

Los Angeles Times

The White House needs to atone for months of casuistry by releasing all relevant documents [removed from Vincent Foster's office]

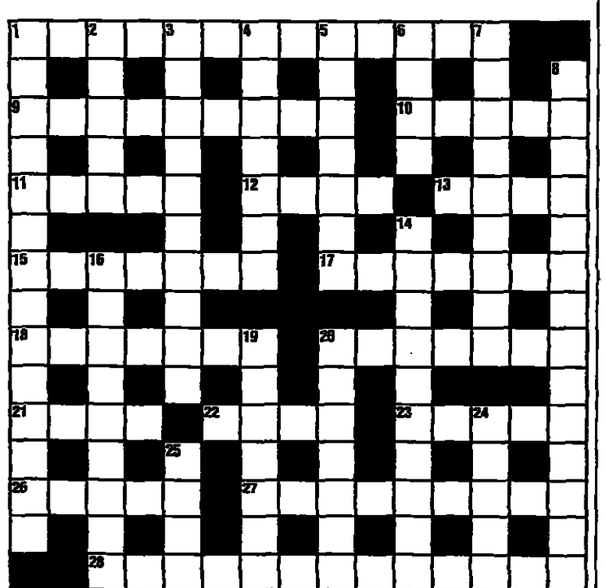
The New York Times

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,422

KNOCKANDO

A bottle of Knockando, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch whisky uniquely bottled only when at its peak of perfection rather than at a pre-determined age, together with a beautifully crafted stationery rack, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address .....



ACROSS

1 Having done half a U-turn getting to the correct viewpoints (2,5,6).
9 Crazy turn after heel to port (9).
10 A fine swindle (5).
11 A battle for the chair, perhaps (5).
12 What women must do while men work? (4).
13 Succeeded with the standard argument (4).
15 Sample popular drink inside the House, perhaps (7).
17 Totters out, going faster than before (7).
18 Female bishop was first to be authorized (7).
20 Catch badly missed? Not half, he got a run! (7).
21 Love needed in order to be a musician (4).
22 Treatment beginning for registered drug addict (4).
23 Admit a novice of less than average height (5).
26 Cook in pan (5).
27 Strange instances happening repeatedly (9).
28 Perfect interpretation of Bach opera, gripping throughout (5,8).

DOWN

1 Generally a sign of error by the committee (6,3,5).
2 Regarded as part of elaborate deception (5).
3 Young composer, not yet developed (10).
4 Appallingly wet day hides island in the Channel (7).
5 Issues a book (7).
6 Weak fabric (4).
7 Sailor preferred over soldiers to make explosive (9).
8 Half the crew made outstanding deal on tour of duty (9,5).
14 In Paris, very dated tourist centre for the unwelcome visitor (10).
16 Very soon desert a lover (9).
19 Intend to have time in New York to eat outside (7).
20 Remarkable occurrence left America almost in chaos (7).
24 A spike set up for a climber (5).
25 Rise and fall of the Holy Roman Emperor (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,417

S	C	O	T	C	H		M	I	S	C	H	I	E	F
	A		R		O		I		H		D		I	
A	T	L	A	N	T	I	S		R	I	G	O	U	R
	R		V		P		T		N		M		E	
S	I	D	E	D	O	O	R		A	D	V	E	R	B
	O		S		T		E		I		N		O	
	N		T	R	A	N	S	E	P	T		E		M
W	A	V	Y		T		S		R		C	O	M	B
E		A		M	O	S	Q	U	I	T	O		A	
D		G		E			U		Z		A		N	
G	R	A	I	N	Y		I	N	S	O	U	I	T	Y
W		R		T		C	R		T		I			
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	E		O		L		N		O		L			
D	I	S	U	N	I	T	Y		G	E	R	M	A	N

Solution to Puzzle No 19,421

M	A	R	Q	U	E	S	S		B		L		S	
	Q		U		V		A	P	E	R	T	U	R	E
L	U	T	E		I		V		D		L		A	
	A		S	A	O	L	E	R	S	W	E	L	L	S
	R		T		E		L		I		C		O	
S	I	M	I	A	N		O	P	T	I	C	I	A	N
	U		O		C		Y		L		E			
A	S	U	N	D	E	R		C	A	P	E	C	O	D
N		T			O		P		S		C			
T	H	R	I	L	L	E	R		P	R	I	N	C	E
I		M		E		O		L		A		A		
B	E	N	E	F	A	C	T	R	E	S	S		S	
O		A		D		U		P		T	O	I	L	
D	O	M	I	N	I	O	N		I		E		O	
Y		E		N		D	R	E	S	S	I	N	G	

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Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736

National traffic and roadworks

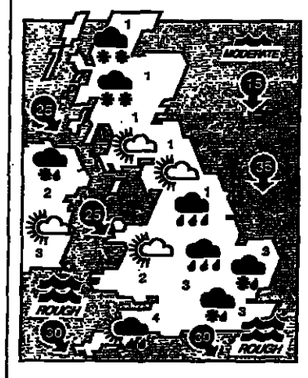
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

Winners of last Saturday's competition are: W J Sharp, Friars Quay, Norwich; D Howarth, Granby Mount, Headingley, Leeds; L H Felce, Rotherfield Road, Carshalton, Surrey; D J Frye, Long Lane, Newport, Isle of Wight; M Moss, Elwell Street, Upwey, Weymouth, Dorset.

WEATHER

Much of Scotland will be snowy. Northern Ireland and the north and west of England and Wales will be showery with some sunshine and snow mainly on hills. Southeast Britain will have rain or sleet at first, but should brighten up. The south will be very windy at first. Some roads will be icy. Outlook: many places bright, crisp and frosty. Eastern England will have some snow on Christmas Day, and the west may have rain or sleet on Sunday.





MIDDAY: t=thunder; d=drizzle; fg=fog; s=sun; sl=sleet; sn=snow; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain

	C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	14	57	c	Madrid	4	39	s
Alicante	20	68	s	Majorca	15	59	s
Alex'dria	21	70	f	Malaga	15	59	s
Algiers	17	63	s	Malta	15	59	s
Amst'dm	4	39	t	Melb'rne	19	66	c
Athens	18	64	f	Mexico C*	20	68	s
Bahrain	19	66	c	Miami*	24	75	s
Bangkok	27	81	f	Milan	7	45	s
Barbados*	29	84	f	Montreal*	-6	21	f
Barcelona	10	50	s	Moscow	-4	25	c
Beirut	19	66	s	Munich	6	43	c
Belgrade	9	48	s	Nairobi	26	79	f
Berlin	4	39	f	Naples	13	55	r
Biarritz	13	55	f	N Delhi	19	66	s
Borde'x	11	52	r	N York*	4	39	s
Brussels	5	41	f	Nice	14	57	s
Budapest	3	37	f	Oslo	-5	23	c
B Aires*	26	79	s	Paris	8	43	c
Cairo	19	66	f	Peking	8	46	s
Cape Tn	34	93	s	Perth	28	82	s
Chicago*	-2	28	f	Prague	4	39	f
Ch'church	11	52	r	Reykjavik	-4	25	s
Cologne	6	43	f	Rhodes	15	59	r
C'phagn	3	37	s	Rio de J	27	81	f
Corfu	15	59	f	Riyadh	24	75	s
Dublin	5	41	r	Rome	15	59	f
Dubrovnik	13	55	s	Salzburg	7	45	f
Faro	17	63	s	S F'risco*	4	39	s
Florence	10	50	r	Santiago*	30	86	f
Frankfurt	5	41	s	Seoul	1	34	f
Funchal	17	63	f	Sing'por	25	77	r
Geneva	6	43	f	St'kholm	-3	27	sn
Gibraltar	16	61	s	Strasb'rg	5	41	f
Helsinki	0	32	c	Sydney	28	82	c
Hong K	18	64	s	Tangier	17	63	f
Innsbruck	7	45	c	Tel Aviv	18	64	s
Istanbul	9	48	s	Tenerife	18	64	s
Jeddah	27	81	f	Tokyo	8	46	c
Jo'burg*	19	66	t	Toronto*	-1	30	c
Karachi	30	86	s	Tunis	15	59	f
L Palmas	18	61	c	Valencia	14	57	s
Le Tquet	7	45	f	Vanc'ver*	4	39	c
Lisbon	11	52	s	Venice	7	45	s
Locarno	6	43	s	Vienna	10	50	s
L.Angels*	17	63	s	Warsaw	3	37	c
Luxembg	3	37	c	Wash'ton*	3	37	f
Luxor	20	68	f	Wellington	12	54	r
				Zurich	4	39	c

* denotes figures are latest available

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	1.1	0.04	2	36	snow
Anglesey	0.8	0.32	8	46	shower
Aviemore	0.2	0.05	2	36	snow
Belfast	6.2	0.13	6	43	shower
Birmingham	0.5	0.40	8	46	shower
Bognor Regis	2.0	0.21	9	48	rain
Bristol	1.4	0.63	9	48	shower
Buxton	-	0.36	4	39	rain
Cardiff	0.9	0.52	9	48	rain
Clacton	2.4	0.14	7	45	shower
Cromer	-	0.09	6	43	shower
Eastbourne	1.8	0.22	10	50	rain
Edinburgh	1.1	0.06	4	39	rain
Eskdalemuir	0.8	0.28	3	37	cloudy
Exmouth	2.2	0.28	9	48	shower
Falmouth	2.6	0.23	10	50	bright
Folkestone	0.9	0.35	8	46	rain
Glasgow	3.1	0.11	5	41	sleet
Hastings	1.9	0.18	9	48	rain
Hunstanton	0.5	0.07	7	45	cloudy
Isle of Man	0.5	0.33	8	46	rain
Jersey	1.8	0.51	10	50	shower
Kinloss	0.1	0.12	2	36	snow
Leeds	0.2	0.10	7	45	rain
Lerwick	1.3	0.07	2	36	snow
Liverpool	-	0.25	7	45	rain
London	0.9	0.19	10	50	thundr
Lowestoft	-	0.09	7	45	rain
Manchester	-	0.28	7	45	rain
Margate	*	0.18	8	46	rain
Minehead	*	0.22	9	48	shower
Morecambe	0.5	0.38	7	45	rain
Newcastle	-	0.08	5	41	rain
Nottingham	1.2	0.17	7	45	rain
Penzance	2.8	0.20	11	52	gale
Plymouth	2.6	0.33	10	50	shower
Poole	2.9	0.28	10	50	rain
Saunton Snd	0.7	0.19	10	50	cloudy
Scarborough	-	0.06	4	39	shower
Scilly Isles	3.8	0.19	10	50	bright
Shanklin	2.9	0.23	9	48	rain
Southsea	2.5	0.25	9	48	rain
Stornoway	1.5	0.17	3	37	hail
Swanage	2.3	0.16	10	50	shower
Teignmouth	2.4	0.17	10	50	shower
Tenby	-	0.24	9	48	cloudy
Tiree	2.1	0.25	7	45	hail
Torquay	2.6	0.20	10	50	bright
Weymouth	1.9	0.12	10	50	shower
Wick	1.5	0.31	1	34	snow

* denotes Not Available

Sun rises: 8.05 am **Sun sets:** 3.55pm
Moon sets 3.30 am **Moon rises** 12.53 pm
Full Moon December 28

London 3.55 pm to 8.05 am
Bristol 4.05 pm to 8.15 am
Edinburgh 3.42 pm to 8.44 am
Manchester 3.53 pm to 8.24 am
Penzance 4.24 pm to 8.20 am

Sun rises: 8.06 am **Sun sets:** 3.56 pm
Moon rises 1.25 pm **Moon sets** 4.34 am
Full Moon December 28

London 3.56 pm to 8.06 am
Bristol 4.06 pm to 8.15 am
Edinburgh 3.42 pm to 8.44 am
Manchester 3.54 pm to 8.25 am
Penzance 4.24 pm to 8.20 am

Sun rises: 8.06am **Sun sets:** 3.57 pm
Moon rises 2.06 pm **Moon sets** 5.36 am
Full Moon December 28

London 3.57 pm to 8.06 am
Bristol 4.07 pm to 8.15 am
Edinburgh 3.43 pm to 8.44 am
Manchester 3.54 pm to 8.25 am
Penzance 4.25 pm to 8.21 am

Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations 1989: The hours of darkness are defined in these Regulations as the period between half an hour after sunset and half an hour before sunrise.

Yesterday: Temp. max 6am to 6pm, 7C (45F); min 6pm to 6am, 4C (39F) Humidity: 6pm, 84 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6pm, trace. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, nil. Bar, mean sea level, 6pm, 992.8 millibars, falling.

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

	C	F			C	F	
Belfast	3	37	sl	Guernsey	9	48	f
B'mgham	5	41	r	Inverness	-1	30	f
Blackpool	4	39	f	Jersey	9	48	f
Bristol	7	45	r	London	6	43	s
Cardiff	7	45	h	M'chester	5	41	f
Edinburgh	3	37	f	Newcastle	3	37	f
Glasgow	4	39	r	R'nddwy	5	41	r

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.34	2.14
Austria Sch	18.83	17.33
Belgium Fr	56.87	51.47
Canada $	2.107	1.947
Cyprus CypE	0.767	0.737
Denmark Kr	10.52	09.72
Finland Mkk	9.13	08.33
France Fr	9.09	8.39
Germany Dm	2.66	2.48
Greece Dr	386.00	361.00
Hong Kong $	12.21	11.21
Ireland Pt	1.09	1.01
Italy Lira	2578.00	2423.00
Japan Yen	180.00	163.00
Malta	0.620	0.585
Netherlands Gld	2.900	2.760
Norway Kr	11.60	10.80
Portugal Esc	270.50	252.00
South Africa Rd	5.80	4.90
Spain Pta	217.50	203.50
Sweden Kr	12.85	12.05
Switzerland Fr	2.26	2.10
Turkey Lira	21390.0	20390.0
USA $	1.562	1.482

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

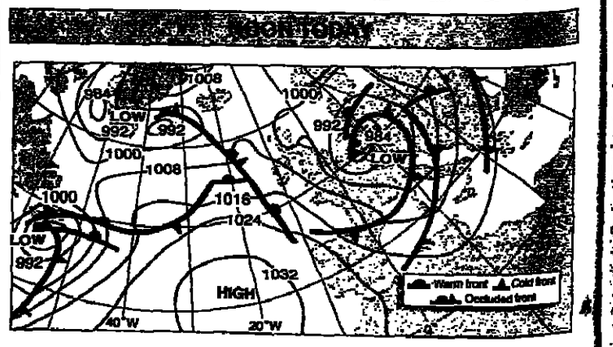
Wednesday: Highest day temp: Penzance, Cornwall, 11C (52F); lowest day max: Wick, Highland, 1C (34F); highest rainfall: Shap, Cumbria, 0.83in; highest sunshine: Belfast, 6.2hr

Much of Scotland will be snowy. Northern Ireland and the north and west of England and Wales will be showery with some sunshine and snow mainly on hills. Southeast Britain will have rain or sleet at first, but should brighten up. The south will be very windy at first. Some roads will be icy. Outlook: many places bright, crisp and frosty. Eastern England will have some snow on Christmas Day, and the west may have rain or sleet on Sunday.

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	9.55	5.7	10.35	5.9	Liverpool	7.37	7.4	7.59	7.6
Aberdeen	10.09	3.5	10.17	3.5	Lowestoft	5.20	2.1	6.39	2.1
Avonmouth	2.56	9.9	3.35	10.2	Margate	8.09	3.9	8.54	4.1
Belfast	7.28	3.0	7.47	3.0	Milford Haven	2.26	5.3	2.58	5.5
Cardiff	2.41	9.3	3.20	9.6	Newquay	1.25	5.4	1.54	5.5
Devonport	1.27	4.4	1.53	4.5	Oban	2.02	3.0	2.51	3.3
Dover	7.17	5.4	7.59	5.3	Penzance	12.41	4.4	1.05	4.5
Falmouth	12.57	4.2	12.23	4.3	Portland	2.02	1.5	2.21	1.4
Glasgow	9.17	4.1	9.58	4.0	Portsmouth	7.25	4.1	7.58	3.9
Harwich	7.42	3.2	8.30	3.3	Shoreham	7.23	4.9	8.02	4.9
Holyhead	7.02	4.5	7.14	4.6	Southampton	7.25	3.7	7.53	3.7
Hull	2.09	6.0	3.03	5.9	Swansea	2.26	7.4	2.58	7.6
Ilfracombe	1.59	7.0	2.33	7.2	Tees	—	—	12.24	4.4
King's Lynn	2.21	4.9	3.09	5.0	W'ton-on-Nze	7.45	3.4	8.33	3.5
Leith	11.02	4.5	11.19	4.6					

TOMORROW	AM	HT	PM	HT	TOMORROW	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	10.58	5.9	11.32	6.2	Liverpool	8.33	7.8	8.53	7.9
Aberdeen	10.58	3.7	11.11	3.8	Lowestoft	6.22	2.1	7.26	2.2
Avonmouth	4.02	10.4	4.35	10.6	Margate	9.08	4.1	9.45	4.2
Belfast	8.19	3.1	8.40	3.0	Milford Haven	3.27	5.6	3.52	5.7
Cardiff	3.47	9.7	4.20	10.1	Newquay	2.23	5.6	2.47	5.8
Devonport	2.37	4.6	3.03	4.6	Oban	3.01	3.2	3.38	3.4
Dover	8.15	5.5	8.49	5.6	Penzance	1.48	4.6	2.10	4.6
Falmouth	2.07	4.4	2.33	4.4	Portland	3.12	1.6	3.37	1.5
Glasgow	10.21	4.2	10.55	4.1	Portsmouth	8.22	4.2	8.55	4.0
Harwich	8.51	3.3	9.27	3.5	Shoreham	8.20	5.1	8.55	5.1
Holyhead	7.52	4.7	8.06	4.8	Southampton	8.17	3.9	8.48	3.9
Hull	3.19	6.1	3.59	6.2	Swansea	3.04	7.3	3.31	7.6
Ilfracombe	3.04	7.3	3.31	7.6	Tees	12.41	4.5	1.17	4.6
King's Lynn	3.27	5.1	4.04	5.3	W'ton-on-Nze	8.51	3.5	9.27	3.6
Leith	11.57	4.7	—	—					

MOON TODAY



Information supplied by Met Office

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THE TIMES

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MELVYN MARCKUS 21

1993 — A year of all our yesterdays



RACING 26-27

Jamie Osborne: A jockey's view at Christmas



CRICKET 28

Is switch-hitting the way to combat Warne?

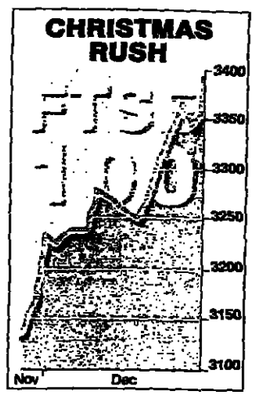
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THE TIMES

FRIDAY DECEMBER 24 1993

Festive cheer for shares as markets break records

CHRISTMAS RUSH



BY MICHAEL CLARK AND SARA MCCONNELL

EUROPEAN stock markets were scaling new heights at the start of the festive season, as investors went on a massive spending spree. The London stock market soared to its highest levels ever, with the FT-SE 100 index breaching the 3,400 level, before closing 40.8 points up at a record high of 3,396.5. That brings the rise on the week, so far, to almost 60 points.

A total of 885 million shares changed hands, as investors took the view that another half-point cut in bank base rates may be on the way. Traders in London are now forecasting that the equity market will trade higher in the short term, reaching the 3,500 level before the year-end. The rise in London was mirrored on the Paris Bourse where the Cac index surged 17.16 to a closing high of 2,243.02. In Frankfurt, the Dax rose 17.16 to 2,227.09. Swiss shares also reached record levels and strong gains were recorded in Brussels and Amsterdam.

Meanwhile, the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) said the housing market was set to pick up next year, after a flat 1993. Lenders are predicting price rises of between 3 and 5 per cent, the CML added.

Lenders contacted by the CML say a 10 per cent increase in the number of housing transactions "should not be dismissed". This will push up property prices. But claims that prices will rise by 10 per cent next year were rejected as "unrealistic". Writing in *Mortgage Monthly*, CML's newsletter, Bev Eldridge, an economist, says buyers are now likely to be encouraged into the market because house prices have stabilised during 1993, and many will decide there is no point waiting for them to fall further. Mortgage rates are also at their lowest level since the mid-1960s, and houses are now more affordable than at any time since 1985.

The number of people with mortgages worth more than the value of the property has also fallen during 1993, making it easier for people previously trapped in their homes to trade up, Mrs Eldridge said. Figures from the Bank of England suggest that the number of borrowers with negative equity fell from a peak of 1.8 million in the first quarter of 1993 to 1.2 million by the third quarter. The amount of negative equity fell from £11.7 billion to £7.3 billion.

Fears of unemployment may also be receding. Mrs Eldridge said: "The improvement in job prospects will ultimately begin to reduce fears of unemployment. This is good news for the housing market as it has proved a big stumbling block to recovery throughout the early 1990s."

However, many home owners and potential first-time buyers are still "suffering from post-recession jitters". Mrs Eldridge said. Tax increases in the two 1993 Budgets will soon start to bite. On top of this, subsidies which have reduced the cost of home ownership, such as tax relief on mortgage interest, are being cut. Income support to cover mortgage interest is also being scaled back. Lenders, badly bitten by the housing slump, are now requiring borrowers to save larger deposits.

Adrian Coles, the CML's director-general, said: "There is no doubt now that the housing market is on its way to recovery. This recovery may be gradual and undramatic but, provided interest rates remain low, the prospects for 1994 look brighter than for several years for both lenders and homebuyers."

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Tempus, page 23

BUSINESS EDITOR
Robert Ballantyne

BUSINESS TODAY

MARK DOWN



Christmas sales have been overtaken by end of season sales, mid-season sales and permanently low prices in the shops
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DEBTS DOWN

YJ Lovell, the builder, announced a restructuring to bring debts down from 400 per cent of shareholders' funds
Page 21

MELT DOWN



The leading French ice cream company that Unilever, the consumer products group, acquired on Monday, announced losses
Page 21

DRAWN DOWN

Basic rate taxpayers with Tessas may be losing more than £300 in tax benefits because of customer misunderstanding
Page 21

Lloyd's admits £22m errors in names deal

BY SARAH BAGNALL
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

■ David Rowland, chairman of Lloyd's, offered an explanation, not an excuse, for mistakes made in calculating the offer of compensation to 22,000 names

LLOYD'S of London yesterday admitted that virtually every name had been offered the wrong amount of compensation in the market's £900 million settlement plan.

In the latest setback to its credibility, Lloyd's said that it had brought in a team of accountants for a week to recalculate the details of the settlement, which is intended to put an end to a mass of legal actions.

Less than three weeks after unveiling its offer, Lloyd's has had to admit that it has offered 13,500 names too little and 9,300, too much. The biggest error was an under-offer of £90,000, closely followed by one of between £85,000 and £90,000. A further seven names have been sent letters offering them more than £55,000 too little.

At the other end of the spectrum are two names who have been offered £40,000 too much. Another four names will see their offers drop by between £30,000 and £35,000 and 12 names will suffer cuts of between £25,000 and £30,000.

David Rowland, the chairman of Lloyd's, said he expected names to be "irritated" by the mistake, which he said had been made by corporation staff. "But we are not looking at anybody and saying: 'You got it wrong'," he added, "because we didn't set up a system to prevent it from happening."

The mistake, which involves the reallocation of £22 million of the £900 million offer, was discovered after numerous phone calls to the Lloyd's settlement offer helpline. Names' concerns centred on four syndicates: Merrett syndicates 418 and 421 and Macmillan syndicates 80 and 843.

Mr Rowland said that on Thursday last week, it had become apparent that there was a problem. "We invited in Coopers & Lybrand, the accountants; they started work that evening and reported to the council on Wednesday."

The error occurred when information was passed from one project group working on the settlement offer to another. The recipient group then made a calculation that had already been made. "It's an explanation, not an excuse." Mr Rowland said. Christopher Stockwell, chairman of Lloyd's Names Associations Working Party, the umbrella organisation for all the action groups, said: "Names can have no confidence that the new calculation is any more correct than the previous one." He added that inaccuracies were "likely to add up to a larger sum" than the £22 million calculated by Lloyd's.

Michael Deeny, chairman of the Gooda Walker Action Group, agreed. "Other errors exist," he said. "I refused to sign the financial panel report, partly because I felt that it was rushed and I repeatedly warned Lloyd's that they would get their calculations wrong."



Rowland: names "irritated"

As a result of the errors, Lloyd's has to send out a new batch of letters to names, informing them of changes to their offers. A total of 10,665 names will be offered up to £2,000 more; 6,231, up to £2,000 less. The change from the original offer is more than 10 per cent for 4,860 of the 13,500 names who were offered too little, and for 5,208 of the 9,300 who were offered too much.

Lloyd's, which intends to send the new offers out by next Wednesday, has already received acceptances and rejections from names but these can be changed as a result of the errors. For those names who have had their offers increased, the original response will stand unless they notify Lloyd's. Names who have had their offers cut have to reply again.

John Mays, deputy chairman of the Merrett 418 Action Group, said: "It is sad to see that Lloyd's cannot get their figures right. This is the same old turkey sliced in a different way. It will bring no Christmas cheer to Lloyd's names. Lloyd's should withdraw this offer and start again with something more realistic."

However, Mr Rowland took the opportunity to reiterate that the offer would not be increased: "We are not playing games when we say we can't offer any more — we mean it. There is an impression that we are in some form of negotiation at the moment. We are not. Neither are we in any form of fight."

Mr Rowland said he was confident that all errors had been discovered. "There is nothing else that we can spot of the same nature. We have not had any more concerns raised on the helpline and perhaps the membership is the best auditor of this." Overall, Lloyd's has received more than 700 calls to its helpline.

Of the £22 million reallocation, £500,000 is being knocked off the £2.5 million offer to names on Wellington syndicate 406, the bulk of the balance being redistributed among names on syndicates 418, 421, 80 and 843.

Mr Rowland said: "The bulk of the redistribution is between the four long-tail syndicates but, as a result, there is a very small knock-on effect of £1 million which affects other names."

Most of the 30 action groups involved in the offer are meeting their names in the new year to debate the offer and to vote on whether to accept it. Most of the meetings are planned to take place between January 14 and January 23 — a week before the deadline set by Lloyd's for acceptances.

SIMON WALKER



Despite appearances at Lloyd's, critics can see no Christmas cheer for names in the new offer

Christmas credit card spending 'modest'

BY SARA MCCONNELL
PERSONAL FINANCE CORRESPONDENT

PRE-CHRISTMAS credit card spending has been modest this year, according to Barclaycard, the country's largest credit issuer. Its cardholders have so far spent only 8 per cent more this December than they did last year. The firm said a "mini-surge" last weekend, when cardholders spent 15 per cent more than they did at the same time in 1992, had not made much difference.

Liz Phillips, at the Credit Card Research Group (CCRG), is more optimistic. She said: "Last year, everyone said no one was spending, but at the last minute there seemed to be a surge." Spending on all cards was 25 per cent higher in December 1992 than it had been in the preceding 11 months. Ms Phillips said: "It is likely to be quite high this December."

Card spending this November was well up on October, indicating some optimism among shoppers, she said. Spending on items such as food and drink was up 22 per cent, in department stores it rose 21 per cent and on records, toys, perfume and antiques, it was up 35 per cent.

BA-USAir code sharing is extended until March

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

GROWING tension between Britain and American aviation officials was underlined as the US allowed British Airways and USAir, its American associate, to fly as one airline into 28 US cities — but only until March.

The approval is an extension of an earlier code-sharing permission granted for just six months and due to expire on January 14. Traditionally, these agreements are given for a year at a time.

Britain threatened to ban some flights into Heathrow if the BA code-sharing arrangement was not extended. BA now has code-sharing flights into 66 US cities and wants to add 40 before November next year.

This week, senior executives of the US Transport and State Departments said privately that they might not give further code-sharing approvals and might even rescind existing BA-USAir arrangements unless Britain allowed more access to Heathrow for American carriers.

The extension — believed to be the shortest time for which US transport officials have granted such permission — expires on March 17, around the first anniversary of BA's initial $400 million investment in USAir, and the date on which it had been hoped that Britain and the US would agree a new international agreement that governs routes and airport access between the countries.

These talks virtually broke down this month and no firm dates have been agreed for a resumption.

Meanwhile, increased competition is on the way from United Airlines after board approval of a $5 billion buyout. This will give unions a 53 per cent stake in exchange for wage concessions that analysts say will allow fare prices to fall. Union rank and file and shareholders have still to approve the buyout.

BELL ATLANTIC FOREIGN SALES CORPORATION

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Bell Atlantic Foreign Sales Corporation structures and invests in single investor and leveraged leases for a variety of large ticket items:

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In addition, Bell Atlantic Foreign Sales Corporation, provides general equipment leasing services, in the small ticket and middle market areas for vendors and users of copiers, telecommunications and data processing systems, and a wide range of other income producing equipment.

For information on the services available from Bell Atlantic Foreign Sales Corporation, please write to

BELL ATLANTIC FOREIGN SALES CORPORATION
Suite 208, Citibank Building
Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas,
U.S. Virgin Islands 00801

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100
3396.5
+40.8

DOW JONES
3770.85
+8.66

Midday trading figure

THE POUND

Dm
2.5479
+0.0067

US $
1.5025
+0.0090

GOLD

$385.20 per oz.

BRENT CRUDE

$13.65 per barrel (Feb)

6pm

LONDON CLOSING PRICES

MARKETS IN DETAIL PAGE 22, SHARE PRICES PAGE 25

Airlines in US dive to $1bn loss

BY OUR CITY STAFF

AMERICAN airlines face a collective loss of about $1 billion this year, bringing total losses during the current bad run of years to more than $11 billion, according to the Washington-based Air Transport Association.

Fierce price competition, the rescue of effectively bankrupt airlines through Chapter 11 proceedings, and innovative cost-cutting deals have prevented the airline industry from returning to overall profit, despite the economic recovery in America.

The association said more than 60,000 airline and aircraft manufacturing workers had been laid off this year. Thousands more fear they may lose their jobs in 1994.

In response to persistent losses across the industry, a coalition of companies and trade associations is lobbying to secure tax relief for airlines and the reform of the Federal Aviation Administration.

United Airlines, the board of which approved a $5 billion deal on Wednesday that will enable the company's employees to buy a majority stake, is awaiting approval from unions by the end of next month. The deal is expected to be concluded in March.

☐ British Midland Airways said it was taking over the London-Bergen and Glasgow-Copenhagen routes of its minority shareholder, Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS). SAS holds a 34.9 per cent stake in Airlines of Britain Holdings, British Midland's parent.

Elliott fights theft charges and Bond era nears end

■ A defiant John Elliott protests his innocence and, amid allegations of a wider conspiracy, claims the fight against Australia's crime authority is far from over

BY COLIN NARBROUGH

THE ignominious fall of John Elliott and Alan Bond, two of Australia's once all-conquering beer barons, has been brought back into harsh focus by a A$65.5 million (£30 million) theft action against Mr Elliott and the appointment of a liquidator for tattered remnants of Mr Bond's empire.

In Melbourne magistrates' court yesterday, Mr Elliott and two of his ex-executives, Ken Jarrett and Peter Camm, were charged with the theft of the money, which was paid in the late eighties from the funds of Elders IXL, his brewing and agricultural group, to Equitcorp of New Zealand through what the prosecution described as bogus foreign exchange transactions, masked as losses and gains. Mr Elliott, a former president of Australia's Liberal Party, and his two co-defendants have pleaded innocent to the charges.

The former beer baron, who changed Elders' name to Foster's after acquiring the best-known Australian lager brand, has gone further, accusing the National Crime Authority (NCA) and Victoria state's director of public prosecutions of waging a vendetta against him as part of a grander political conspiracy.

Since September, Mr Elliott has been trying to prevent the NCA from bringing the theft charges against him, but his efforts failed when the high court in Sydney refused yesterday morning to extend temporary injunctions.

A defiant Mr Elliott, who has waged a battle with the legal authorities for the past four years, accused the NCA and the public prosecutor's office of "illegal behaviour" and said the fight was "far from over".

In Adelaide, the supreme court of South Australia brought Mr Bond's collapsed brewing-to-media empire a key step closer to termination with the appointment of Richard England, director of corporate recovery and insolvency at Ernst & Young, the accountancy group, as liquidator of Southern Equities Corporation, the successor company to Bond Corporation Holdings.

Mr England plans to meet the company's directors in Perth today to request a report to help him to establish the present financial position of Southern Equities, which has been under an administrator since 1991. He will also ensure that its remaining assets and records are safe.

Mr Bond was declared bankrupt and served three months in jail for dishonesty after severing his links with Bond Corporation in 1990.



John Elliott is defiant over the £30m theft action

Signs of strength in US economy

BY OUR CITY STAFF

STRONG November demand for cars and aircraft pushed orders for expensive durable goods up for the fourth consecutive month in the US.

Americans' incomes and spending also rose, the Commerce Department reported. This is expected to push the economy towards a strong closing quarter.

Orders rose by 2 per cent, to a seasonally adjusted $139.4 billion, after a 2.6 per cent October gain, completing the best string of rises in more than six years.

Consumer spending, which has boosted the economy throughout the year, rose for the eighth consecutive month in November.

In its report on income and spending, the department said spending rose by 0.4 per cent during the month, after an increase of 0.8 per cent in October.

Income from all sources, including wages, rents and dividends, gained for a fourth month in a row. It was up by 0.6 per cent, after a 0.7 per cent October increase.

Analysts expect the economy to grow at a 4 per cent annual rate in the fourth quarter, partly driven by strong consumer spending. Gross domestic product grew at a 2.9 per cent annual rate during the third quarter.

Sales of US-made cars and light trucks have risen sharply and orders for transportation goods rose by 5.7 per cent in November, accounting for more than half the total gain in durables orders.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

British Gas quiet on Belgian ambitions

BRITISH Gas acknowledged a close interest in the privatisation of a 50 per cent Belgian government stake in Distrigaz, the Belgian gas distribution monopoly, but declined to confirm that it had made an offer. Belgian ministers are expected to meet early in the new year to consider offers for Nationale Investeringsmaatschappij/Société Nationale à l'Investissement (NIM/SNI), which counts the Distrigaz stake as its main asset.

"We are always interested in investment opportunities," a British Gas spokesman said. "We are watching the situation closely." Rival investment groups are reported to have submitted offers of up to £335 million. The possible level of any British Gas offer remains unclear. A successful bid would make British Gas the largest shareholder in Distrigaz, followed by Tractebel, the energy group, with 33 per cent and Shell Belgium with more than 16 per cent.

WBB chairman goes

DR INGRAM Lenton steps down today as chairman of Watts Blake Bearne, a Devon-based company that extracts and processes ball and china clay, sand and gravel. Earlier this year, WBB repelled an £87 million takeover bid from Sibelco, a Belgian sand producer. Dr Lenton, who is retiring because of ill health, is succeeded by Michael Beckett, the deputy chairman. Sibelco, which has 46.7 per cent of WBB following the abortive bid, is tightening its grip. Jacques Emsens, an SCR-Sibelco executive, is joining his father, Stanislaus Emsens, as a non-executive director.

Borden denies talks

SHARES of Borden, the American food and chemicals group, lost almost 13 per cent in two days, after the company denied it was in talks about a sale or merger. Hanson, the Anglo-American conglomerate, Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch food group, and Philip Morris, the US food and tobacco group, were said to have been talking. Borden shares lost a further 50 cents to $16.75, valuing the company at $2.4 billion. Borden, which last week dismissed its chairman and chief executive, said it would unveil a restructuring plan in the new year.

Expamet shares hit

SHARES in Expamet International, the building, industrial and security components supplier, fell 11p to 58p after the company said market conditions had worsened for its continental European operations. Expamet said further reorganisation and rationalisation had been undertaken in response. The additional measures will increase the total cost of such programmes in 1993 to £2.1 million, including £1.7 million of redundancy costs. The number of employees is being reduced by over 150, to bring savings of more than £3 million.

Star expands in India

STAR Television, the Hong Kong satellite broadcaster that is 64 per cent owned by The News Corporation, ultimate owner of *The Times*, has bought a 49.9 per cent stake in Asia Today, the Indian broadcaster of the ZEE TV Hindi language channel. Star said the investment, for an undisclosed sum, would raise its share of prime time viewing in Indian homes that receive cable TV to more than 50 per cent. Sam Chisholm, a News Corp board director, said: "With the existing Chinese channel, two of Star's six channels will now be broadcast in Asian languages."

Cairn sells NZ assets

CAIRN Energy, the independent oil and gas explorer, has sold some of its New Zealand assets for £1.7 million. The group's 13.35 per cent interest in licence PPL38706 and its 5.34 per cent stake in licence PPL38707 will be acquired jointly by Petrocorp Exploration and Southern Petroleum (Ohanga). Cairn will retain a 26.7 per cent interest in licence PPL38702, covering the onshore Taranaki Basin. Bill Gammell, the group's chief executive, said the assets sold had become "less material following the growth of other areas of our business".

Lusty buys for £3.6m

JOHN Lusty, the USM-quoted food importer and distributor, is buying Trustin-Kerwood, a speciality foods distributor, for £3.64 million. The deal, which depends on Trustin achieving pre-tax profit of £435,000 for the nine months to December 31, will be funded by the issue of up to 60.7 million shares, representing 61 per cent of the share capital of the enlarged group. Trustin made pre-tax profits of £182,000 on sales of £8.4 million in the year to March 31. Lusty's shares have been suspended pending shareholders' approval of the acquisition and share issue.

BCCI men seek bail in Abu Dhabi

BY PATRICIA TEHAN
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE trial of 13 senior officials of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International will resume in Abu Dhabi tomorrow. The officials face civil and criminal charges related to the collapse in 1991.

Since the last hearing on November 13, lawyers representing 11 of the defendants — two are being tried in their absence — have sifted through volumes of reports detailing the criminal charges. Tomorrow they will ask for an auditor's report which has been presented to the country's attorney general, and seek bail for the ten men being held in custody.

The defendants have pleaded not guilty to all criminal charges, including dissipation of funds, forgery, concealing deficits and losses and approving false loans.

Lawyers said they expected the hearings to be adjourned for at least a month to enable them to study documents related to the civil claim filed by BCCI's majority shareholders, the Abu Dhabi authorities, which owned 77.4 per cent of BCCI when it was shut down.

On Monday, the Abu Dhabi ruling family and the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority filed a $9 billion civil claim against the defendants on the basis of the criminal charges.

Writ over Medway valuation

BY ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

TWO former directors of Medway Ports have issued a writ against KPMG Peat Marwick, alleging negligence by the accountancy firm in its valuation of Medway shares in March.

Des Campton, previously Medway's legal director, and Keith Middleton, a former operations director, were among former employees who sold shares for £2.50 in March, when they left the company. The price was based on a valuation by KPMG. Mr Campton had acquired 45,900 shares in the Medway buyout in March 1992 and Mr Middleton bought 68,000 shares.

In September, Medway Ports was taken over by Mersey Docks and Harbour for £104 million, valuing the business at £37.25 a share.

The case has been brought in the High Court. Other shareholders in similar circumstances are expected to begin legal action in the new year.

Medway, which has facilities on the south of the Thames estuary at Sheerness, in Kent, is a former trust port that specialises in importing fruit and cars, as well as operating ferry services to the continent. It was privatised two years ago, when managers and employees paid £29.7 million for the assets.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

071-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

No. 0010112 of 1993
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF
LIFE & EQUITY ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED
- and -
IN THE MATTER OF
THE INSURANCE COMPANIES ACT 1982

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 17th day of November 1993 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice by the above-named Life & Equity Assurance Company Limited (Life & Equity) for:

(1) the sanction under Section 49 of the Insurance Companies Act 1982 to a Scheme providing for the transfer to the above-named Cannon Assurance Plc ("Cannon") of the whole of the long term insurance business carried on by Life & Equity; and

(2) an Order making ancillary provision in connection with the said transfer under Section 52 of the said Act.

Copies of the Petition, the Scheme and a report by an independent actuary in pursuance of the said Section 49 may be inspected at each of the registered offices and at each of the offices of the said Companies specified in the Schedule hereto during usual business hours for a period of 21 days from the publication of this notice.

The Petition is directed to be heard before Mr Registrar Buckley at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London, WC2A 2LL on Wednesday the 26th day of January 1994 and any person, including any employees of the said Companies, who claims to be adversely affected by the Scheme may appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel. Any person who intends so to appear, should give not less than two clear days prior notice in writing of such intention of dissent, and the reasons therefor, to the Solicitors named below.

Copies of the documents specified above will be furnished by such Solicitors to any person requiring them prior to the making of an Order sanctioning the Scheme on payment of the prescribed charge therefor.

Dated this 17th day of December 1993.
MALKINS
Inigo House 29 Bedford Street, COVENT GARDEN,
London WC2E 9ED
Solicitors to the Companies.

THE SCHEDULE
PRINCIPAL OFFICES AT WHICH COPIES OF THE PETITION AND REPORTS WILL BE AVAILABLE

AVON (Western Region)
King William House, 2nd Floor — Area Mgr: DAVID DAVIES
13 Queen Square — Tel: 0272 211202
Bristol BS1 4NT — Fax: 0272 273636

AYLESBURY (South Eastern Region)
1 Cromwell Court — Area Mgr: HEATHER ELLIOT
New Street — Tel: 0296 28878
Aylesbury — Fax: 0296 29932 (fax only)
Bucks HP20 2RB

BASINGSTOKE (Southern Region)
Cranbourne House — Area Mgr:GORDON PHILLIPS
Basingstoke Road — Tel: 0256 479439
Basingstoke — Fax: 0256 841090
Hants RG21 2HR

BELFAST (Western Region)
50 Bedford Street — Area Mgr: TONI FITZPATRICK
Belfast BT2 7FG — Tel: 0232 232345
Northern Ireland — Fax: 0232 232345

BIRMINGHAM (General Region)
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Hagley Road — Tel: 021 454 6711
Edgbaston — Fax: 021 455 7357
Birmingham — B16 8PE

BRIGHTON (Southern Region)
123 Davigdor Road — Area Mgr: ALLAN FAIRHALL
Brighton — Tel: 0273 208301
East Sussex BN1 3XH — Fax: 0273 321253

BRISTOL (Western Region)
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13 Queen Street — Tel: 0272 277616
Bristol BS1 4NT — Fax: 0272 221718

CARDIFF (South Western Region)
Limetick House, 1st Floor — Area Mgr MIGEL ELLERTON
23 Churchill Way — Tel: 0222 371531
Cardiff — Fax: 0222 222366

CHELMSFORD (South East Region)
19 Glebe Road — Area Mgr: JOHN PRESTON
Chelmsford — Tel:0245 262626
Essex CM1 1QG — Fax: 0245 269322

CHELTENHAM (Western Region)
Wolseley House — Area Mgr: ANDY STAVELEY
2 Wolseley Terrace — Tel: 0242 570530
Golf Road — Fax: 0242 576412
Cheltenham GL50 1TH

CHESTER (Western Region)
Pepper House — Area Mgr: MIKE HOLMES
Pepper Row — Tel: 0244 316033
Chester CH1 1EA — Fax: 0244 314389

EASTLEIGH (South Western Region)
Unit 4, West Links — Area Mgr: SUE JUSTICE
Tollgate — Tel: 0703 651334
Eastleigh — Fax: 0703 651030
Hants SO5 3YE

EDGBASTON (Central Region)
Telcon House — Area Mgr: TOM McDERMOTT
51/53 Hagley Road — Tel: 021 455 7070
Edgbaston B16 8TP — Fax: 021 456 1675

GATESHEAD (Northern Region)
24 Kingsway House — Area Mgr:STEPHEN PYLE
Kingsway — Tel: 091 487 5342
Gateshead — Fax: 091 482 0226
Tyne & Wear NE11 0JS

GLASGOW (Northern Region)
Empire House — Area Mgr: DAVID BARKLEY
131 West Nile Street — Tel: 041 332 7221
Glasgow — Ext 2701
Fax: 041 332 0186

HAYWARDS HEATH (Southern Region)
Oakfield House, 4th Floor — Area Mgr: JANICE RUSSELL
Perrymount Road — Tel: 0444 452252
Haywards Heath RH16 3BY — Fax: 0444 450455

HARROW (South Eastern Region)
Dinsdale House — Area Mgr
RICHARD HARTMAN — Tel: 081 864 8080
270/278 Northolt Road — Fax: 081 423 5494
South Harrow
Middlesex HA2 8EB

JERSEY Channel Islands
3 Britannia Place — Area Mgr:PETER VINCENTI
St. Helier — Tel: 0534 57035
Jersey CI — Fax: 0534 35940

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Pavilion Bus. Park — Area Mgr: JOHN McGUIRE
Whitehall House — Tel: 0532 310088
Royds Hall Road — Fax: 0532 310342
Leeds LS11 6AJ

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36 Meadow Way — Tel: 081 868 1258
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Middx EN3 7TF

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Croydon CR0 2AD — Fax: 081 681 5216

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The Pantile Quays — Tel: 061 975 4543
Broadway — Fax: 061 977 4340
Salford Quays M5 2UE

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Orchard House — Tel: 0634 388244
Station Road — Fax: 0634 377449
Rainham
Kent ME8 7HW

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York — Tel: 0904 641534
YO1 2DT — Fax: 0904 620491

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NE3 2EN

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Northumberland Road — Fax: 0705 872057
Portsmouth PO1 5DS

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Ringwood BH4 1HE

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Surrey GU21 1DD

YORK (Western Region)
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132 Lawrence Street — Tel: 0904 430707
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Uttoxeter New Road — Fax: 0332 297651
DERBY DE3 3WZ

Northampton
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Northampton NN1 4AA — Fax: 0604 33463

Norwich
Percy Road — Tel: 0603 788034
Norwich NR1 1SU — Fax: 0603 788038

PLYMOUTH
Paignton
Suite 5, 2nd Floor — Tel: 0803 663307
57 Torquay Road — Fax: 0803 529606
Paignton Devon TQ3 3DT

ROTHERHAM
Halifax
District Bank Chambers, 2nd Floor — Tel: 0422 380289
George Square — Fax: 0422 384434

Sheffield Dawgs Court (David Thompson)
Unit 12, Dawgs Court — Tel: 0742 667765
372 Cemetery Road — Fax: 0742 667792
Sheffield S11 8FT

UPMINSTER
Bury St. Edmunds
Crossways — Tel: 0284 828848
Chickfield — Fax: 0284 828863
Bury St. Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 3LH

No. 0010112 of 1993
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF
THE INSURANCE COMPANIES ACT 1982

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 17th day of November 1993 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice by the above-named Life & Equity Assurance Company Limited (Life & Equity) for:

(1) the sanction under Section 49 of the Insurance Companies Act 1982 to a Scheme providing for the transfer to the above-named Cannon Assurance Plc ("Cannon") of the whole of the long term insurance business carried on by Life & Equity; and

(2) an Order making ancillary provision in connection with the said transfer under Section 52 of the said Act.

Copies of the Petition, the Scheme and a report by an independent actuary in pursuance of the said Section 49 may be inspected at each of the registered offices and at each of the offices of the said Companies specified in the Schedule hereto during usual business hours for a period of 21 days from the publication of this notice.

The Petition is directed to be heard before Mr Registrar Buckley at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London, WC2A 2LL on Wednesday the 26th day of January 1994 and any person, including any employees of the said Companies, who claims to be adversely affected by the Scheme may appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel. Any person who intends so to appear, should give not less than two clear days prior notice in writing of such intention of dissent, and the reasons therefor, to the Solicitors named below.

Copies of the documents specified above will be furnished by such Solicitors to any person requiring them prior to the making of an Order sanctioning the Scheme on payment of the prescribed charge therefor.

Dated this 17th day of December 1993.
MALKINS
Inigo House 29 Bedford Street, COVENT GARDEN,
London WC2E 9ED
Solicitors to the Companies.

ANGLO GREAT LAKES CORPORATION PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY
(formerly known as)
ANGLO GREAT LAKES CORPORATION LIMITED)
Company Number: 02575672
NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS OF THE ABOVE NAMED COMPANY

On 17 December 1993 the above named Company was placed in Members' Voluntary Liquidation and Anthony Victor Lesslie and Richard Victor Yerburgh Selchim of Price Waterhouse, No 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL were appointed Joint Liquidators by the shareholders.

The liquidators give notice pursuant to Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the company must send details, in writing, of any claim against the company to the liquidators, at the above address by 31 January 1994 which is the last day for proving claims. The liquidators also give notice that they will then make a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not prove a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution.

The company is able to pay all known creditors in full.

Dated 17 December 1993
Anthony Victor Lesslie and Richard Victor Yerburgh Selchim
Joint Liquidators

No. 009619 of 1993
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF SELECT APPOINTMENTS (HOLDINGS) PLC
- and -
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 8th December 1993 confirming the reduction of the above capital of the above-named Company from £4,060,390 to £3,260,000 and the cancellation of the shares resulting therefrom and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the share capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 10th December 1993.

DATED this 20th day of December 1993
CHARLES RUSSELL
Hale Court, Lincoln's Inn,
London WC2A 3UL
Solicitors for the above-named Company

Notice of Administration Order
Volume One Bookshops Limited
Registered number: 2457413.
Nature of business: Bookshop.
Trade classification: 18.
Administration order made: 17 December 1993, Joint administrators: Derek Stephen Woolf and Maurice Moss (office holder nos: 002969 and 008542).

Notice of Appointment of Administrative Receivers
Opal Products Limited
Registered number: 2510081.
Nature of business: Distributor of toiletries and cosmetics. Trade classification: 18. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 9 December 1993. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: Barclays Bank plc, Geoffrey Stuart Kinlan and Peter Richard Cope (office holder nos: 6249/01 and 1788/01) Address: Bury Hayward & Baker Street London W1M 1DA.

HILLS (ENFIELD) LIMITED
Registered No: 707823
A Meeting of Unsecured Creditors has been convened by the Joint Administrative Receivers of the above-mentioned Company pursuant to Section 48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 for the purpose of proposing to that Meeting a copy of the Report prepared by the Administrative Receivers under Section 48(1) of the said Act and for the purpose, should the Creditors think fit, to establish a Committee of Creditors under the provisions of Section 49 of the said Act.

The Meeting will be held as follows: Date: 4th January 1994. Time: 11.00 a.m. Place: 6 Raleigh House, Admiral Way, Waterside, London E14 9SN.

Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the Meeting.

A Creditor will only be entitled to vote at the Creditors Meeting if:-

(a) he has given to the Receivers, not later than 12 o'clock noon on the business day before the day fixed for the Meeting, details in writing of the debt that he claims is due to him from the Company, and the claim has been duly admitted under the provisions of the Insolvency Rules, and

(b) there has been lodged with the Administrative Receivers a Proxy which the Creditor intends to be used on his behalf.

Date: 15 December 1993
Colin G. Wiseman
and Peter A. Lawrence
Joint Administrative Receivers.
6 Raleigh House, Admiral Way, Waterside, London, E14 9SN.

Notice of Administration Order
Mento Stationery Superstores Limited
Registered number: 2426368.
Nature of business: Stationery Retail. Trade classification: 18.
Administration order made: 17 December 1993. Joint administrators: Derrick Stephen Woolf and Maurice Moss (office holder nos: 002969 and 008542).

No. 009225 of 1993
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
In the Matter of
BARKER SECURITIES PLC
- and -
In the Matter of
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

The capital of Barker Securities PLC was by virtue of a Special Resolution of the Company and with the sanction of an Order of the High Court of Justice dated 24th November 1993 reduced from £2,000,000 divided into 20,000,000 ordinary shares of 10p each to £200,000 divided into 20,000,000 ordinary shares of 1p each. At the date of the registration of this Minute 5,914,492 of the said shares have been issued and are deemed to be fully paid and the remainder are unissued.

No. 009929 of 1993
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF EAST HEALTHCARE LIMITED
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 15 December 1993 confirming the reduction of the capital of the above named company from £1,478,875 to £1,000,000 and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 21 December 1993.

Dated this 22 day of December 1993
Churchill Hooper & Co 34 Queen Street London SW1H 9JD
Solicitors
for the above named Company

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
Re: FLORIDHURST LIMITED
T/A ARROW BOARDS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Booth White, Trafalgar House, 8/10 Nelson Street, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS1 1EF on Friday 7th January 1994 at 2.45 p.m. for the purposes mentioned in Sections 100 and 101 of the said Act.

Brian Mills licensed Insolvency Practitioner of Booth White, 2 Nelson Street, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS1 1EF will furnish Creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonably require.

DATED this 15th day of December 1993
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
G. SWAIN, DIRECTOR.

NIGEL BARING & CO. LIMITED
Registered No: 1359241
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 401(1A) of the Insolvency Act, 1986 that Panos Efandis of Panos Efandis & Co., 6 Bloomsbury Square, London, WC1A 2LP, was appointed Administrative Receiver of the above-named Company on 26th November, 1993 by Nigel Baring under the powers contained in a Debenture dated 2nd June, 1993 whereby a fixed and floating charge was created over the whole of the assets of the Company.
26th November, 1993.
P. Efandis
Administrative Receiver

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
No. 0010186 of 1993
IN THE MATTER OF CRANSWICK PLC
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 18th day of November 1993 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the Reduction of the Share Premium Account of the Company by £4,000,000.

AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before Mr Registrar Buckley at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London, WC2A 2LL on Wednesday the 19th day of January 1994.

Any Creditor or Shareholder of the Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the reduction of the Share Premium Account of the Company should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A Copy of the said Petition will be furnished by any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated this 14 day of December 1993.
Keith Farrell & Bindon, Solicitors
Wilberforce Court, High Street
Hull HU1 1XJ
(Ref: S/17/FKB)
Solicitors to the above-named Company

No. 006280 of 1993
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER of
MACANDREWS & CO. LIMITED
and
IN THE MATTER of
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

Notice is hereby given that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated the 18th August 1993 CONFIRMING THE REDUCTION of the Share Capital of the above named MACANDREWS & CO. LIMITED from £4,042,105 to £1,500,000 and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the above Company as altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on the 20th December 1993.

Dated the 20th day of December 1993.
STEPHENSON HARWOOD
One St Paul's Churchyard
London EC4M 8SH
Solicitors for the above-named Company (Ref: 45)

No. 008847 of 1993
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF
D. ANDERSON & SON LIMITED
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 8th December 1993 confirming the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £17,000,000 to £12,644,000 and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 10th December 1993.

Dated the 20th day of December 1993
Lace Mawer Castle Chambers 43 Castle Street Liverpool L2 9SQ

No. 0040000 of 1993
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER of
THORNTON MANAGEMENT LIMITED
- and -
IN THE MATTER of
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE is hereby given that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated the 16th December 1993 CONFIRMING THE REDUCTION of the Share Premium Account of the above named THORNTON MANAGEMENT LIMITED to the sum of £5,736,042 was registered by the Registrar of Companies on the 16th December 1993.

Dated the 20th December 1993
STEPHENSON HARWOOD
One St Paul's Churchyard
London EC4M 8SH

Notice of Appointment of Administrative Receivers
Vale of Health Organic Products Company Limited
Registered number: 2431070.
Nature of business: Distributor of toiletries and cosmetics. Trade classification: 18. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 9 December 1993. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: Barclays Bank plc, Joint Administrative Receivers Geoffrey Stuart Kinlan and Peter Richard Cope (office holder nos: 6249/01 and 1788/01) Address: Bury Hayward & Baker Street London W1M 1DA.

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pursuant to Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986
Registered number: 2304940
Name of company:
ENH Oakridge Limited
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at The Chesterfield Hotel, The Steyne, Worthing, West Sussex BN11 3DU on Friday the 7th day of January 1994 at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of having a report by the Administrative Receiver laid before it together with a summary of the statement of affairs of the Company, and if thought fit, to appoint a Creditors' Committee. Forms of proxy are enclosed which should be completed if you cannot attend the meeting and wish to be represented, and returned to me at Levy Gee & Partners, Southfield House, 11 Liverpool Gardens, Worthing, West Sussex BN11 1RY by the date of the meeting.

In order to be entitled to vote at the meeting you must give me details in writing of your claim, not later than 12.00 hours on the business day before the day of the meeting.

Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.

Paul M Davis,
Administrative Receiver

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity - The Hermitage at Sheppard's Law administered in connection with The Brothers of the First Order of the Society of St Francis. The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for the charity. A copy can be seen for the next month at Stanton Croft, 46 Grainger Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 6LB or a copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St Alban's House, 57/60 Haymarket, London, SW1Y 4QX, quoting reference number 140T-230464A/1-CDT(Ad1).

هكذا من الاصل

Through a dark glass, retrospectively



MELVYN MARCKUS

It could be argued that certain events of 1993 are either related to, or bear a striking resemblance to, certain happenings of yesteryears. This, upon reflection, is hardly surprising, bearing in mind that, barring the unforseen, the Tories will be celebrating 15 years in power come next May.

Time and knives have inevitably brought about a constant shuffling of the Westminster pack: a tenuous King replacing the Queen in 1990, the focus, last year, being on the Jack. Norman Lamont finally exited kicking and screaming as Chancellor in May: the backbenches representing a more honourable destination than the door of the Ministry of Environment that John Major chose to hold ajar.

Drama of the moment but, as almost everyone other than Lamont fully appreciated, the writing, of an indelible nature, had been on the wall ever since sterling's incongrous exit from the exchange-rate mechanism the preceding September. It was courtesy of politics that Lamont was permitted to remain in situ for a further eight months: the reality being that Major and Lamont were so inextricably entwined in their "non devaluation" stand of 1992 that a swift decapitation of the Chancellor would have served to magnify the question marks above that other uneasy head.

There was no shortage of irony in Lamont's departure, not least the fact that it was Chancellor Major, rather than Lamont, who originally took sterling into the ERM at a central rate of DM2.95 — a rate always perceived as too high by leading industrialists and unsustainable by leading economists. Current rate: DM2.54.

The ultimate irony, of course, was that although Lamont's credibility was irreparably shot during the unsuccessful defence of sterling, it was the events of September 1992 that firmly paved the way for the brave new world of 1993. Lamont, by the time the axe was swung, could indeed sense the oncoming irony.

In his words: "I have always been willing to be judged on my record. I believe that the success of the policies I have put in place will become increasingly clear." This, in turn, rather over-egged the pudding. Greatness, in terms of the slow-running economic recovery of 1993, was not achieved by either Major or Lamont whose economic policies, such as they were, exploded on September 16, 1992: popularly, and incorrectly, dubbed "Black Wednesday". Thrust upon them, if you like.

That said, today's economic climate owes precious little to the Government's economic strategy and almost everything to the events of autumn 1992.

History teaches us that when interest rates fall, share prices rise and that, give or take, was all investors needed to know this year — witness a 21.1 per cent rise in the FTA All-Share Index. Industrialists, for the most part, wax cautious, rather than lyrical, over the extent of the UK recovery, but the faintest glimmer of light, in a declining interest rate syndrome, will invariably be perceived as green by fund managers. The jargon is "discounting": polite terminology for gambling on, at best, the probable. Throw in the weight of money factor and you have the principal reasons why UK equities are bowing out of the year at all time peaks. Many counters are distinctly overvalued, particularly in relation to gearing, but such is the stuff of bull markets. What the wise will do is retain quality Blue Chips and ditch the second/third line counters which, come the eventual reversal, will prove well nigh unmarketable. Never forget the lessons of October 1987, the most important being not to panic out of quality paper: look at the value of such paper now. As for third (fourth?) quartile paper, think no further than Polly Peck.

All of which brings me to that which still smacks of yesteryears - namely regulation. Once upon a time journalists such as myself could aim their sights at the City's cosy form of "self-regulation," fire and, quite conceivably, achieve relatively little. But what the late Eighties and early Nineties have served to illustrate is that whatever the failings of regulation, the UK legal system is manifestely unable to deal with serious fraud. Put another way, even if the Government's none too efficient self-practioner based style of regulation - spearheded by the Securities & Investments Board - happens to collar a criminal, the odds are that the combination of inept prosecuting authorities and an inept judiciary will signal freedom rather than justice. If wooden spoons are on offer for the non-achivements of 1993 then they should be shared by Lord Mackay, the Lord Chancellor and Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney General.

Can one imagine a more bizarre farce than Asil Nadir's flit to northern Cyprus last spring - despite the fact that the Serious Fraud Office, led by George Staple, had been consistently warned of such a likelihood.

Even more ironic was the fact that Mackay was sunbathing and conferencing on the south side of the line when Nadir and his entourage breezed into the North.

In the wake of Guinness I through Guinness IV (at a cost to the taxpayer of some £27 million) and the Blue Arrow fiasco (£30 million plus), Staple let it be known that he had seen the light: US style plea bargaining. Alas, what transpired was UK style plea bargaining: witness the Roger Levitt episode. As for the effectiveness of City regulation under the auspices of SIB, the year ends with indications that more than 90 per cent of those who have switched funds out of occupational pension schemes into personal plans during the past 2½ years may have been ill-advised.

The good news, so we are led to believe, is that after warnings were issued the ratio dropped to "only 80 per cent." Bravo. The question is, does the Government really possess the *will* to regulate.

Equallyimportant:a happy Christmas one and all.



Antony Hichens is to step down as non-executive chairman once the reorganisation has been implemented

Lovell restructures after loss doubles to £60m

By Colin Campbell

■ YJ Lovell hopes to realise £32 million through disposals as it moves to take advantage of a financial reconstruction and an improvement in trading conditions

YJ LOVELL (Holdings), the housebuilding and construction group that has long been weighed down by debt, is undertaking an extensive reorganisation and capital restructuring exercise to place itself on a sounder financial footing.

The plan involves the conversion by bank and building society lenders of £45.8 million debt into convertible preference shares, a placing and open offer of 316.1 million shares at 10p each that will raise £29.7 million net, and a capital reduction that will remove restrictions on the ability to pay dividends.

The open offer is on the basis of 19-for-5. Lovell shares fell 4¾p to 11p.

Lovell last paid a dividend in respect of the 1991 interim period, but indicates that payments could be resumed in respect of the 1994 financial year.

Pro forma net assets will increase to £60.6 million. Pro forma balance sheet gearing will fall to 29.5 per cent — down from more than 400 per cent. Antony Hichens will step down as non-executive chairman once the plans have been implemented and a new chairman appointed, and further new board appointments are planned.

An extraordinary general meeting is planned for January 17.

Lovell said the level of gearing at more than 400 per cent was having a detrimental effect on the commercial success of some of its operations at a time when market conditions were improving.

As part of the overall proposals, principal lenders, which include British banks and one American bank and four building societies that are in joint venture, have agreed £37.5 million of new facilities that include a £25 million four-year term loan and £12.5 million of additional working capital facilities.

Lovell yesterday said it made a modest £370,000 profit — before exceptionals, interest and tax — in the year ended September 30, on turnover of £221.3 million.

However, £55.3 million written off land and property in America and Britain, and an interest charge of £5.01 million, left Lovell showing an overall pre-tax loss of £59.96 million (£27 million loss) for the 1993 financial year.

Lovell does not believe that any further provisions will be necessary.

A strong order book is in place for 1994, further construction contracts are expected to be won, and plant hire is benefiting from early signs of a pick-up in demand.

"On virtually every front there now appears to be a reasonable expectation that 1994 will be better than 1993 and that further recovery will follow thereafter," Lovell says.

Lovell expects to realise £32 million over the next three years from the sale of non-core assets, and says that the financial changes will give it the stability to grow its core business successfully in Britain and America.

Because Lovell is not permitted to issue shares at a price below their 25p nominal value, the board proposes a sub-division.

Among the board changes, Trevor West, who has been finance director of the company since 1989, is taking early retirement.

Lovell proposes to appoint at least one other new non-executive.

Mr Hichens said he was only likely to step down as chairman once his successor had been announced.

He added that the major strengthening of the underlying financial position of Lovell should allow shareholder value to be improved significantly over the medium term.

Cookson makes £17m acquisition

By Martin Flanagan

JOHNSON Matthey, the precious metals technology group, is selling its jewellery materials business in the United Kingdom and the Irish Republic to Cookson Group, for £17 million.

The operation, which employs 280, is based in Birmingham, with customer service centres in London and Dublin. Sales were £44 million in the year to March 31, 1993.

Johnson Matthey said it had been decided that the business, which makes gold and silver products for jewellers, dental alloys and finished gold chain, was peripheral to the main focus of the group on high technology.

The deal will release precious metal with an estimated value of £20 million, thereby reducing Johnson's net borrowings by £37 million.

Cookson said that the acquisition complemented the recently-acquired Knight Stern business, also based in Birmingham, and would accelerate growth in the European precious metals fabrication market.

Cookson shares were unchanged at 229p. Johnson Matthey shares rose 11p to 535p.

UK firms vie for £1.2bn contract

By Colin Narbrough

SEVEN British construction companies have entered the contest to decide who will build a 17 km tunnel-and-bridge link between Denmark and Sweden, Ingmar Björnson, the project director, said. The project is officially budgeted at Dkr12.2 billion (£1.2 billion).

Mr Björnson said the British companies were among 20 international consortia that had submitted applications to tender for the contract by the deadline on Monday. He said one consortium was led by a British company but declined to name any firms.

Øresundkonsortiet, the 50:50 joint venture between the Danish and Swedish governments that is responsible for the fixed link, expects to send out invitations to tender in March and to start construction work next summer. Completion, scheduled for 1999, will give Sweden, Norway and Finland road and rail access to western Europe, via Denmark.

Mr Björnson said that the project was still awaiting final approval from the Swedish cabinet, which meets on December 30 to make a decision. Carl Bildt, the prime minister, is strongly in favour of the link, but Sweden's strong environmentalist lobby has important political support.

Now that work on the Channel Tunnel has been completed, Øresund project offers one of the biggest construction jobs in Europe, making it highly attractive for recession-gripped companies in the sector.

The coast-to-coast section of the link being put out to tender comprises an immersed tunnel between the Danish coast at Kastrup, home of Scandinavia's main hub airport, and an artificial island, as well as approach bridges and a high bridge.

The Dkr12.2 billion budget is at 1990 prices. A further Dkr5.5 billion is budgeted for separate landside works leading to the fixed link.

Denmark is currently building an 18 km fixed link across the Great Belt between the islands of Zealand and Funen, due to open in 1996. With the Øresund connection, motor vehicles will be able to travel from North Cape, in the Arctic, to Gibraltar without a sea crossing.

Losses at Unilever's French buy

By Susan Gilchrist

BUYING foreign businesses is a risky business, as many British companies have found. But Unilever's latest acquisition seems to have hit trouble rather early.

On Monday, the Anglo-Dutch detergents-to-food group announced the agreed takeover of Ortiz-Miko, the leading French ice cream maker. Yesterday, Ortiz-Miko gave warning of a 1993 loss. It made a net profit of Fr12.7 million last year.

Unilever, which is paying £220 million for the company, said the loss was no surprise. The French company reported a net interim loss of Fr17.6 million and announced in November that it did not expect to match last year's profit. But Unilever remained optimistic. "In this case, past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance," it said.

Unilever is taking a 75 per cent stake in Safral, the holding company that owns 85 per cent of Ortiz-Miko, and will make an offer of about Fr1,420 per share for the other 15 per cent. The offer price represents an 18 per cent premium to Monday's closing price.

Bank gives tax warning over withdrawals

Tessa holders may be losing out

By Liz Dolan

BASIC rate taxpayers with Tax Exempt Special Savings Accounts (Tessas) may be losing more than £300 in tax benefits because they do not understand the difference between Tessas and other savings vehicles, according to Barclays Bank.

The bank said: "We are seeing large withdrawals at the moment for large purchases. Although this is normal at this time of the year, we are concerned that some customers are confusing what should be seen as an investment account with straight savings accounts from which you withdraw money when you need it."

The moment any capital is withdrawn from a Tessa, the account loses its tax-exempt status. Barclays customers who withdraw capital after investing the maximum £6,600 since the January 1,1991 launch date, face a £318 tax bill if they withdraw money now. Higher rate taxpayers lose even more. Recent reports of a doubling in the number of people cancelling Tessas has left most savings institutions perplexed, however. According to Inland Revenue figures, cancellations jumped from one in 20 accounts to one in ten in the first six months of 1993.

However, most institutions report little or no diminution in interest over the past two years, in spite of sharply lower rates and increased financial hardship.

Savers may put up to £9,000 in a Tessa over five years. Subject to this limit, they can invest up to £3,000 in the first year and up to £1,800 in each of the next four years.

The Halifax, Britain's largest Tessa provider with 700,000 accounts, said that the net number of new Tessa customers in 1993 was 100,000, the same as last year. New money coming in has more than outweighed losses through cancellation.

There has been no increase in the rate of closures at Nationwide, which has 500,000 accounts. They have remained constant at 500 to 600 a month. The Cheltenham & Gloucester reports a slight fall in the number of Tessa accounts since year one, but nearly all cancellations have been due to death, it said.

On average, the C&G is notified of 10 deaths a day. Cancellations for other reasons amount to only two or three a week. Straight cancellations are due to shortage of funds, not because people wish to transfer to other savings vehicles. New accounts are running at 30 to 40 a week.

The Leeds, with 200,000 accounts, notes a slight increase in withdrawals but, again, emphasises that new accounts more than compensate. "We don't ask why people close their accounts, but we feel most are due to the death of the account holder."

National & Provincial said that cancellation rates were very low. The Bristol & West, with 57,000 Tessa accounts, said that it had no records of how cancellations have varied over the years.

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Christmas buying spree pushes shares to another record

SHARE prices soared to yet another all-time high on the London stock market as hopes of a further cut in bank base rates intensified.

The FT-SE 100 index breached the 3,400 level, albeit briefly, as market-makers were forced to deal with a torrent of buy orders from the big City institutions.

The index reached its all-time high of 3,400.3 before closing 40.8 points up at a record 3,396.5, cheered by an opening rise on Wall Street. The rise on the week so far is almost 60 points.

The number of shares changing hands totalled 885 million as investors began the task of squaring-up their year-end positions before the break. Stock shortages meant another nail-biting session for hard pressed market-makers, but they can expect an easier time during today's shortened trading session, with Wall Street and most European markets closed.

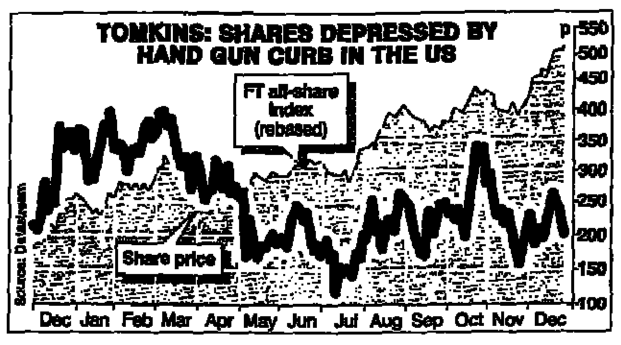
STOCK MARKET

Among the leaders, **Reuters** stood out, with a leap of 64p to £18.80 in a market short of stock. Brokers reported renewed American support for the shares and there was also talk that the group wants to buy Quotron, the market trading system, owned by Citicorp. American buying also lifted **Vodafone** 10p to 583p.

BTR was chased 11p higher at 380p on talk of a buy recommendation from Smith New Court, while **Reed Elsevier** advanced 18p to 908p on claims that Warburg Securities was covering positions relating to one of its basket trades.

British Gas rallied 3p to 336p. Brokers claimed the shares had been oversold after this week's decision by the Government to take away its monopoly on the supply of domestic gas.

Euro Disney lost another 22p at 373p after further reflection on the auditor's report into its troubled finances. **Tomkins**, which



owns Smith and Wesson, the gunmaker, fell 7p to 230p. Wal-Mart, the American retailer, will no longer sell handguns over the counter at its 2,400 retail outlets.

QVC Network's bid for Paramount Communications in America generated interest in domestic media companies, where there are several bids on the table. **Carlton Communications**, now bidding for **Central Independent**, jumped 23p to 940p. **Central** ended 63p up at £29.08p. **Granada** also added 8p at 534p. Its offer for **LWT (Holdings)**, 15p dearer at 625p, has been rejected. There were also gains for **Anglia**, 5p to 427p, **Grampian Television A**, 2p to 229p, and **Ulster**, 10p to 518p.

A review of the independent radio broadcasters by Smith New Court brought out the buyers for **Capital Radio**, up 21p at 324p, and **Southern Radio**, 2p better at 63p.

The utilities recovered from an early mark-down that was prompted by revived worries about increased regulatory interference. Among the water companies, **Anglian** finished 14p better at 608p, **Northumbrian** was 4p up at 741p, **North West** was 11p higher at 596p, **Severn Trent** was 12p ahead at 618p, **Southern** was 14p better at 682p, and **Wessex** was up 20p at 740p. In the electricity sector, **Eastern** 10p better at 701p, **East Midland** was 8p up at 668p, **London** was 11p ahead at 671p, **Manweb** was 14p higher at 770p, and **Midlands** was 12p up at 728p.

YJ Lovell, the builder, fell 4p to 11p after announcing pre-tax losses of almost £60 million, compared with a profit last time of £27 million. The figure was struck after write-offs totalling £55.3 million relating to property and land revaluations.

The group is also arranging a placing to raise almost £30 million and converting £45.8 million of debt into equity. **Expamet International**, the security and building products group, tumbled 11p to 58p after warning of further provisions against restructuring and property values.

□ **GILT-EDGED:** gilts opened higher on the back of firmer European bond markets. The March series of the Long Gilt touched a high for the day of £119¾ before settling £15/16 better at £119 11/16 on low turnover of 10,000 contracts.

In the cash market, the longer end fared better, with Treasury 9 per cent 2012 adding £9/16 to £126 21/32, while in shorts, Treasury 9½ per cent 1999 was seven ticks better at £115 7/8.

MICHAEL CLARK

MARKETS AT A GLANCE

THE POUND

US $ ......1.5025 (+0.0090)
German mark ......2.5479 (+0.0067)
Exchange index ......81.7 (+0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100 ......3396.5 (+40.8)
Dow Jones ......3770.85 (+8.66)*
Nikkei Avg ......Closed

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 5½%
3-month Interbank 5⅜-5 5/16%
US Federal Funds 3%*
3-month Treas Bills 3.06-3.05%*
Long Bond 6.23%*

CURRENCIES

New York:		London:	
£:$	1.5034*	£:$	1.5035
$:DM	1.6935*	£:DM	2.5472
$:SWfr	1.4337*	£:SWfr	2.1560
$:Ffr	5.7695*	£:Ffr	8.6770
$:Yen	110.55*	£:Yen	166.22
£:SDR	1.0782	£:ECU	1.3182

London Forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing ($):
AM 385.75 ...... PM 384.95
Close 385.00-385.40
New York:
Comex 385.45-385.95*

OIL

Brent Crude ...... $13.65 per bbl (Feb)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI. 141.6 Nov (1.4%) Jan 1987=100
* Denotes midday trading price

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Guinness ...... 490p (+11½p)
Redland ...... 599p (+10p)
Dart ...... 152p (+12p)
ICI ...... 768p (+14p)
Capital Radio ...... 324p (+21p)
Carlton Comm ...... 940p (+23p)
Compass Group ...... 668p (+17p)
LWT Holdings ...... 623p (+15p)
Stanley Leisure ...... 300p (+14p)
Essex Furn ...... 220p (+22p)
Reed Int ...... 908p (+18p)
Plysu ...... 219p (+10p)
Portals ...... 510p (+10p)
Church ...... 388p (+28p)
Ferguson Int ...... 361p (+10p)

FALLS:

Euro Disney ...... 373p (-22p)
Abbey Panels ...... 233p (-20p)
British Aerospace ...... 403p (-10p)
ERF ...... 276p (-19p)

Closing Prices Page 25

Gulf states ask non-Opec members to cut oil output

By Carl Mortished

GULF Arab leaders are pressing for a worldwide cut in oil output to include non-Opec producers in a bid to stem sliding crude prices.

A meeting of the Gulf Co-operation Council on Wednesday agreed that members would cut output if both members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) and non-Opec producers agreed to a comprehensive plan to reduce production.

Ali al-Baghli, Kuwait's oil minister, said yesterday that the offer depended on all producers joining the cut-backs, including Britain and Norway. "Our consent is conditional," he said. "We repeat that it is an international responsibility to cut."

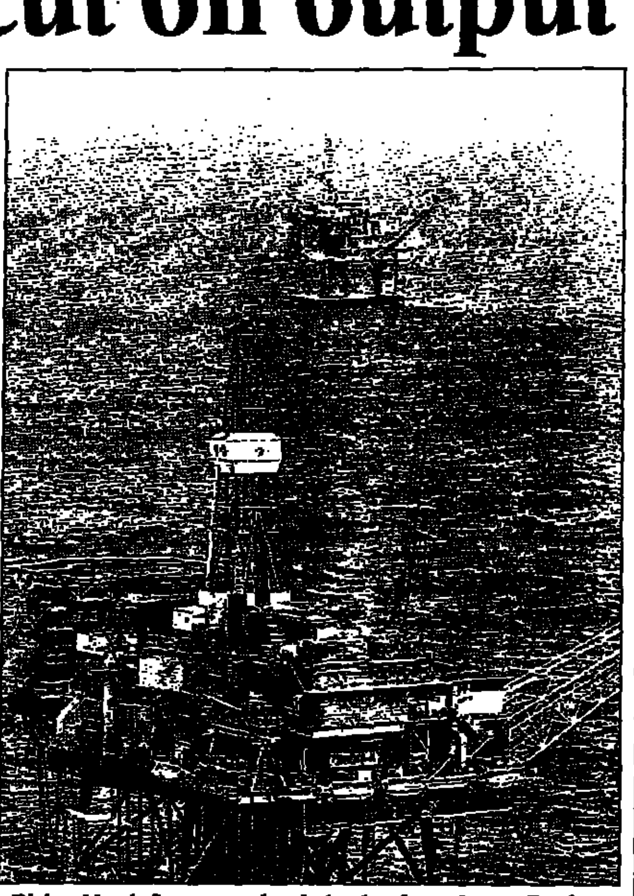
A surge in North Sea oil production is in part responsible for the recent collapse in oil prices to below $14 per barrel. But Norway has ruled out a cut in its production, and in the UK, output is controlled by private-sector oil companies.

Oil analysts said it was significant that Saudi Arabia, the largest Opec producer and a member of the Gulf Co-operation Council, had for the first time endorsed the idea of cuts.

"It is a chink of light but I don't think this is the end of the blood-letting," said Mehdi Varzi, of Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank. "It betrays the concern of Gulf states over oil. The Saudis have not balanced their budget since 1982 and every $1 fall in the oil price increases their deficit by about $2 billion."

February futures for the world benchmark Brent blend of crude oil traded at about $13.70 per barrel yesterday, after closing on Wednesday at $13.74. Traders said forecasts of colder weather in the North East of the US also supported prices in the run-up to the West's Christmas and new year holidays.

Speculation over an emergency Opec meeting in January was raised again yesterday. Opec is not due to meet until March 25 and a February meeting is considered unlikely, as it would coincide with Ramadan.



Rising North Sea output has helped to force down oil prices

Key indexes hit all-time closing highs

Frankfurt —German shares climbed to record highs, rising more than 3 per cent this week, and dealers expect the market to hold gains, at least until the new year. The Dax index jumped 25.33 points to finish at a record high of 2,222.84, off the highest-ever trading level of 2,227.88. Dealers said that the market was in a euphoric mood, with the year-end rally fuelled by investor buying from all sides. Richard Davidson, an equity strategist at Morgan Stanley, said share prices were unlikely to sink back from current levels before the end of the year, and predicted that the Dax would stand at 2,300 to 2,350 in six months' time.

WORLD MARKETS

□ **Paris** — The Cac-40 index ended at an all-time closing high, fulfilling traders' predictions that it would break above its previous record by Christmas. Dealers said the market was sustained by a strong French bond market and cash flowing into shares out of mutual funds. There was no reason for the market to dip from current levels, as there was strong domestic demand for shares, they said.

□ **Hong Kong** — Share prices closed at a record high on selective buying that sent the Hang Seng index up 173.24 points to 10,881.20. That was short of its high for the day of 10,957.59; profit-taking had pared earlier gains. The exchange will open for only a half-day of trade today.

□ **Sydney** — A modest recovery in key blue-chip shares and off-shore interest in the resources sector lifted the Australian share market at the close, brokers said. A broker said there had been a reasonable recovery in the price of The News Corporation and BHP. The All-Ordinaries index finished 15.6 points higher at 2,068.8, off a high of 2,072.6 reached in early afternoon trading.

□ **Tokyo** — The Tokyo stock market was closed yesterday for a national holiday. It will reopen today. (*Reuter*)

WALL STREET

New York — Shares were up, mainly due to an absence of sellers and thinner volume. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 8.86 points to 3,770.85. (*Reuter*)

	Dec 23 midday	Dec 22 close
AMP Inc	62⅞	62
AMR Corp	67⅛	66¼
Abbott Labs	29⅝	29¼
Aetna Life	59	59⅜
Ahmanson (HF)	19⅜	19⅜
Air Prod & Chem	44⅛	45⅛
Albertson's	26⅝	26⅝
Alcan Alumnm	21	21
Alco Standard	53⅝	53¼
Allied Signal	79	78⅝
Alum Co of Am	68⅝	68⅝
Amax Gold Inc	6⅛	6⅜
Amerada Hess	44¼	44⅛
Amer Brands	33⅛	33⅝
Amer Cyanamid	50⅝	50⅝
Amer El Power	37⅛	37⅝
Amer Express	31¼	31¼
Amer Genl Corp	27⅛	27⅝
Amer Home Pr	63⅛	63¼
Amer Intl	88⅝	89⅛
Amer Stores	43⅛	43¼
Amer T & T	54⅛	54⅛
Ameritech	80⅛	79⅝
Amoco	53⅝	53⅝
Anheuser-Busch	49⅝	48⅝
Apple Computer	28⅝	28
Archer Daniels	23⅝	23⅝
Arkla	7⅛	7⅛
Armco	6	5⅞
Armstrng Wrld	52⅛	52⅝
Asarco	21⅝	21⅛
Ashland Oil	32⅛	32⅝
Atl Richfield	103⅞	103⅛
Auto Data Pro	56	56⅛
Avery Dennison	29⅝	29¼
Avon Products	48	47⅝
Baker Hughes	20⅛	19⅝
Baltim Gas & El	26	26
Banc One	38⅝	38⅝
BankAmerica	46⅝	46⅛
Bank of NY	57⅝	57⅛
Bankers Tr NY	79⅝	79⅝
Barnett Banks	41	40⅛
Bausch & Lomb	51¼	50⅝
Baxter Intl	23⅝	23⅝
Becton Dicknsn	36⅛	36⅛
Bell Atlantic	61	60⅝
BellSouth	59	58⅝
Black & Decker	20⅛	20⅛
Block (H&R)	41¼	40⅛
Boeing	43⅝	43⅝
Boise Cascade	24⅛	24⅛
Borden Inc	16⅝	17⅛
Bristol Myrs Sq	59	59
Browning Ferris	26⅛	26⅛
Burlington Nthn	57⅝	57⅛
CBS	290⅛	286
CNA Financial	80	80⅝
CPC Intl	48⅛	48
CSX	87⅝	86⅛
Campbell Soup	42⅝	42⅛
Can Pacific	15⅛	15⅝
Cpd Cities ABC	635	637
Cpd Holdings	36⅛	37⅛
Carolina Pwr	30⅛	30⅛
Caterpillar	87⅛	87⅛
Central & SW	32⅛	31¼
Champion Intl	32⅛	32⅛
Chase Manhat	34⅛	34⅛
Chemical Bk	40⅝	40⅝
Chevron Corp	88	87⅝
Chrysler	54⅛	54⅛
Chubb Corp	77⅛	76⅛
Cigna Corp	63⅝	63⅝
Citicorp	36⅝	37⅛
Clorox	53⅝	53⅝
Coastal Corp	27⅛	27⅛
Coca Cola	43⅝	44
Colgate-Palmolive	61	61⅛
Columbia Gas	23	23⅛
Commonw Ed	29⅛	29⅝
Compaq Comp	73⅝	73⅝
Comp Ass Intl	40	39⅝
Conagra	26⅛	26⅝
Cons Edison	33	32⅝
Cons Nat Gas	44¼	44
Cons Rail	66⅛	66
Cooper Inds	48⅛	48⅝
Corning Inc	27⅛	26⅛
Crown Cork	40⅝	40⅛
Dana Corp	57⅝	58
Dayton Hudson	67⅛	67⅛
Deere	71¼	72⅛
Delta Air Lines	55⅝	55
Deluxe Corp	36	35⅛
Detroit Edison	31¼	31⅛
Digital Equip	34⅝	35⅝
Dillard Dept St	36⅛	36⅝
Disney (Walt)	45⅝	44⅝
Dominion Res	45⅝	45⅝
Donelley (RR)	30⅛	30⅛
Dover Corp	61⅛	61⅛
Dow Chemical	57⅛	57⅛
Dow Jones	36⅛	35⅝
Dresser	20⅛	20⅛
Duke Power	43⅝	43⅛
Dun & Bradstreet	62	62⅝
Du Pont	49⅝	49⅝
Eastman Kodak	59⅛	55⅝
Eaton Corp	51	50⅛

	Dec 23 midday	Dec 22 close
Emerson Elec	59⅝	60
Engelhard Corp	34⅛	23⅝
Enron Corp	29	28⅝
Entergy Corp	35⅝	35⅝
Ethyl Corp	17⅛	17⅛
Exxon	63⅛	63
FMC Corp	46⅝	46⅛
FPL Group	39⅛	39⅛
Federal Express	70⅛	71
Fed Nat Mtge	78⅛	78⅛
First Chicago	44	43⅝
First Interstate	65⅝	64⅛
First Union Rlty	10⅛	10⅛
Fleet Finl Grp	33⅛	33
Fluor Corp	40⅝	40⅛
Ford Motor	66	65⅝
GTE Corp	35⅛	35⅝
Gannett	57⅝	56⅛
Gap Inc Del	40⅛	39⅛
Gen Dynamics	94⅛	96⅝
Gen Electric	106⅛	105⅝
Gen Mills	61	61½
Gen Motors	56⅛	55⅝
Gen Reinsurance	108⅛	107⅛
Gen Signal	34⅛	34⅛
Genuine Parts	36	35⅛
Georgia Pac	67⅛	69⅛
Gillette	60⅛	59⅛
Glaxo ADR	21⅛	21⅛
Goodrich (BF)	41½	41½
Goodyear Tire	44⅛	44½
Grace (W&R)	40⅛	40⅛
Gt Atl Pac Tea	28⅝	28⅝
Great Wstn Fin	18⅝	18⅝
Halliburton	31⅛	30⅛
Harcourt General	33	32⅛
Heinz (HJ)	36⅛	36
Hercules	110⅛	110⅛
Hershey Foods	49⅛	49⅛
Hewlett Packard	77⅛	77⅛
Hilton Hotels	57⅝	57⅛
Home Depot	40⅛	39⅛
Homestake Mng	21¼	21⅛
Honeywell	33⅝	33⅝
Household Intl	32⅛	32⅛
Houston Inds	47⅛	48⅛
Humana	18⅝	18⅛
ITT Corp	92⅝	93
Illinois Tool	37⅛	36⅛
INCO	26⅛	25⅝
Ingersoll Rand	37⅛	38⅛
Inland Steel	33⅛	33
Intel Corp	62⅝	61½
IBM	59⅝	59⅛
Intl Flav & Fr	111⅛	111¼
Intl Paper	66⅛	66⅛
James River Va	18⅝	18⅝
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	43½	42⅝
K Mart	21½	21½
Kellogg	59⅛	59⅛
Kerr-McGee	44⅛	44½
Kimberly-Clark	51¼	51¼
Knight-Ridder	59⅝	59⅝
Lilly (Eli)	59⅝	58⅛
Limited Inc	17	16⅛
LIN Brdcstng	111¼	112⅛
Lincoln Nat	42⅝	42⅝
Litton	63⅝	63½
Liz Claiborne	21¼	21
Lockheed Corp	69⅛	69
Louisiana Pac	39⅛	39
MCI Commun	25⅝	25⅝
Marriott Intl	28⅛	28
Marsh & McLnn	80⅝	80⅛
Masco Corp	37⅝	37⅝
May Dept St	40⅝	40⅝
Maytag Corp	17⅛	18
McCaw Cellular	51¼	51
McDonalds	57⅝	57½
McDonnell D	108⅝	108⅝
McGraw Hill	67⅛	67⅛
Mead Corp	45	45
Medtronic	82⅝	82⅝
Mellon Bk	53¼	53⅝
Melville Corp	40	39⅝
Merck Inc	34⅛	34½
Merrill Lynch	45⅝	45⅝
Minnesota Mine	109⅝	110⅛
Mobil Corp	77⅝	77⅝
Monsanto	73⅝	73⅝
Morgan (JP)	71½	71½
Motorola Inc	89⅛	89⅝
Natl Medical	13⅝	13⅝
Natl Semi	15⅝	15¼
Natl Service Ind	24⅝	24⅝
Navistar Int	22⅛	22⅝
NBD Bancorp	30⅛	30⅛
NY Times A	26⅛	26⅝
Newmont Mng	56⅝	55½
Niag Mohawk	20⅝	20⅛
Nike B	45⅛	44⅝
NL Industries	5⅛	5⅝
Nordstrom	32⅛	31¼
Norfolk Sthrn	71⅝	72⅛
Nthn State Pwr	44½	44
Norwest Corp	24⅝	24½
Nynex Corp	40⅛	40⅛
Occidental Pet	17⅛	17
Ohio Edison	23	23
Oracle Systems	31¼	31¼

	Dec 23 midday	Dec 22 close
Oryx Energy Co	17⅛	17
Owens Corning	44⅛	44½
PNC Financial	29	29⅛
PPG Industries	75⅛	75½
Paccar Inc	63⅛	62⅛
Pacificorp	19⅝	19⅝
Pac Enterprises	25⅝	25⅛
Pac Gas & Elect	35⅛	35⅛
Pac Telesis	55⅝	55⅝
Pall Corp	18⅛	18⅛
Panhandle East	22	21⅛
Paramnt Comm	79⅛	79⅝
Parker Hannifin	37⅝	37⅛
Penney (JC)	53⅝	52⅝
Pennzoil	53	52⅝
Pepsico	42	41⅛
Pfizer	68⅛	66⅝
Phelps Dodge	48½	48⅝
Philadel Elec	29⅛	30⅛
Philip Morris	56	55⅛
Phillips Pet	28⅝	27⅛
Pitney Bowes	41½	41½
Polaroid	33⅛	33⅛
PriceCostco	19⅝	19⅛
Primerica	40⅝	39⅝
Procter & Gmbl	57⅛	57
Pub Serv E & G	32⅛	32⅛
Quaker Oats	71⅛	71¼
Ralston Purina	37⅝	37⅝
Raychem Corp	36⅛	36⅛
Raytheon	67	67
Reebok Intl	28⅝	28⅛
Reynolds Metals	45½	46
Roadway Srvs	61½	61¼
Rockwell Intl	37⅛	37⅝
Rohm & Haas	56⅛	56⅝
Royal Dutch	106⅛	105
Rubbermaid	35	35
Safeco Corp	54⅛	54⅛
St Paul's Cos	89⅛	89⅝
Salomon Inc	46⅝	46⅛
Santa Fe Pac	21⅛	21½
Sara Lee Corp	26⅛	26⅛
Scecorp	20⅛	20⅝
Schering Plough	66⅝	65⅛
Schlumberger	58½	58⅛
Scott Paper	40⅝	39⅛
Seagram	26⅛	26⅛
Sears Roebuck	52⅝	52½
Shell Trans	64⅛	64⅛
Sherwin Wlms	35	35⅛
Skyline Corp	18⅛	18⅝
Snap-On-Tools	36⅛	36⅝
Southern Co	44⅝	44⅛
Sthwestern Bell	44½	44½
Sprint Corp	33⅝	32⅛
Stanley Works	42⅛	42
Sun Company	30⅝	30⅛
Suntrust	45⅝	45½
Supervalu	37	37⅝
Syntex Corp	15⅛	15
Sysco Corp	29⅛	30⅛
TRW Inc	69⅝	68⅝
Tandem Comp	10⅝	10⅝
Tandy Corp	48⅝	48⅝
Telecom Corp	2⅝	2⅛
Teledyne	25⅛	25⅛
Temple Inland	49⅝	49⅝
Tenneco	51½	50⅛
Texaco	64¼	64⅝
Texas Inst	63	62⅝
Texas Utilities	44½	43⅝
Textron	58⅝	58⅛
Time Warner	44½	44½
Times-Mirror	34½	34⅛
Timken	34½	34⅛
Torchmark	43⅝	43⅛
Toys R Us	40	39⅛
Transamerica	59⅝	59⅝
Travelers Corp	32⅛	31¼
Tribune	60	60⅛
Tyco Labs	49⅛	48⅛
UAL Corp	148⅛	148⅛
UST Inc	28⅝	28⅛
USX Marathon	16⅛	16⅝
Unilever NV	118⅛	117⅛
Union Camp	47⅛	47⅝
Union Carbide	22⅛	22⅝
Union Pacific	61½	61½
Unisys Corp	12⅛	12⅛
USAir Group	12⅛	12⅝
USF&G Corp	13⅝	13½
US Life	37	36⅛
US West	46⅛	46⅛
United Tech	62⅝	61¼
Unocal Corp	26⅛	26½
Upjohn	29⅝	29⅝
VF Corp	43⅝	44⅝
WMX Tech	26⅛	27
Wal-Mart Stores	26⅛	26⅝
Warner-Lambert	66½	65⅝
Wells Fargo	131¼	131¼
Westinghouse El	14	13⅝
Weyerhaeuser	44½	44⅛
Whirlpool	66⅝	64⅝
Whitman	15⅛	16
Winn Dixie	53⅛	53½
Woolworth	23⅛	23½
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	44⅝	44⅛
Xerox	89⅝	89⅝

RECENT ISSUES

Aberforth Split Lvl C (100)	100½	+½
Abtrust Lloyds Insce (100)	93	+1
Azlan (230)	262	-1
CLM Insce (100)	105	...
Celltech (250)	225	...
Chelsfield (155)	180	+2
DFS Furniture (260)	315	+1
Fairbairn Euro Smlr (100)	98	...
Fenchurch (180)	176	+3
Finsbury Undrwrtng Inv	108	...
For & Col Smaller (100)	108	+4
Gartmore (168)	202	+5
Govett High Inc (100)	111	+2
Harmony Leisure Wts	3½	...
Inspirations (100)	108	-2
Kleinwort 2nd Endw (50)	52	...
Litho Supplies (190)	236	+15
London Industrial (320)	354	+2
Masthead Insce (100)	107	...
Mercury World Mng (100)	105	+1
Millgate (40)	40	...
Morgan Gren Eqy C (100)	109	+3
NM Smllr Aust (100)	103	+1
NM Smllr Wts	47	+1
Nelson Hurst (140)	147	+2
New London Capital (100)	97	...
On Demand Info (78)	111	+8
Pilot Inv C (100)	102	...
Premium Trust	98	+1
Premium Underwriting	121	...
Rossmont (10)	11	...
Royal Doulton	229½	+2½
Securitised End Cont (60)	62	...
Telspec (160)	191	+2

RIGHTS ISSUES

Banner Homes n/p (89)	26	-2
Bourne End n/p (65)	8	...
Bowthorpe n/p (320)	39	-9
Dwyer A n/p (50)	3	...
Greycoat n/p (12½)	5½	...
Heywood Williams n/p (280)	120	+4
Hilclare n/p (36)	2½	...
NFC n/p (195)	31	+1
Serif n/p (11)	7	...
Tay Homes n/p (145)	46	+3
West Trust n/p (32)	5	-1
Wyevale Garden n/p (152)	19	...

FT-SE VOLUMES

ASDA Gp	11,000	Cadbury	1,500	MEPC	1,100	Scot Power	2,300
Abbey Natl	1,800	Caradon	1,000	Marks Spr	2,400	Sears	1,700
Alld-Lyons	782	Carlton Cms	822	NFC	5,100	Svrn Trent	1,100
Anglian W	186	Coats Vly	1,700	NatWst Bk	2,700	Shell Trans	3,000
Argyll Gp	2,400	Cm Union	1,400	Nat Power	1,300	Siebe	1,200
Arjo Wiggn	5,000	Courtaulds	1,900	Nth Wst W	771	Smkl Bch	4,200
AB Foods	507	Enterpr Oil	1,000	Nthrn Fds	1,600	Smith Nph	3,100
BAA	632	Forte	2,800	P & O	1,700	Southern Elec	259
BAT Inds	3,400	GRE	2,300	Pearson	1,000	Std Chartd	1,300
BOC	1,200	GUS	419	PowerGen	3,600	Sun Allnce	1,300
BP	4,800	Gen Acc	1,000	Prudential	3,500	TI Gp	728
BT	4,400	Gen Elec	8,800	RMC	237	TSB	4,000
BTR	6,700	Glaxo	4,200	RTZ	2,300	Tesco	2,700
Bk of Scot	950	Granada	1,300	Rank Org	1,300	Thames W	1,500
Barclays	2,100	Grand Met	2,700	Reckitt Col	780	Thrn EMI	779
Bass	1,200	Guinness	2,100	Redland	1,400	Tomkins	8,700
Blue Circle	1,500	HSBC	1,700	Reed Intl	1,200	Unilever	923
Boots	2,100	Hanson	6,200	Rentokil	2,200	Utd Bisc	796
Bowater	1,000	ICI	1,000	Reuters	691	Vodafone	2,500
Brit Aero	2,900	Inchcape	2,200	Rolls Royce	5,200	Warburg (SG)	521
Brit Airwys	1,600	Kingfisher	877	Ryl Ins	2,800	Wellcome	1,900
Brit Gas	9,900	Ladbroke	18,000	Ryl Bk Scot	1,400	Whtbd 'A'	353
Brit Steel	18,000	Land Secs	435	Sainsbury	1,200	Wlms Hld	429
Burmah Cast	323	Legal & Gn	212	Schroders	80	Wolseley	106
Cable Wire	5,400	Lloyds Bk	1,400	Scot & New	1,100	Zeneca	1,400

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones ...... 3770.85 (+8.66)
S&P Composite ...... 468.64 (+1.32)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Av'ge ...... Closed

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng ...... 10881.20 (+173.24)

Amsterdam:
CBS Tendency ...... 147.9 (+1.2)

Sydney: AO ...... 2068.80 (+15.60)

Frankfurt:
DAX ...... 2222.84 (+25.33)

FT 30 share: ...... 2549.4 (+35.5)

Brussels:
General ...... 7504.82 (+119.12)

Paris: CAC ...... 2243.02 (+17.23)

Zurich: SKA Gen ...... 685.10 (+12.30)

London:
FT A All-Share ...... 1669.96 (+18.87)
FT 500 ...... 1777.60 (+21.05)
FT Gold Mines ...... 240.5 (-2.1)
FT Fixed Interest ...... 131.27 (+0.13)
FT Govt Secs ...... 107.02 (+0.17)
Bargains 33718
SEAQ Volume 885.4m
USM (Datastrm) ...... 153.53 (+0.50)

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
December 20	January 7	March 24	April 5

Call options were taken out on 23/12/93: Alvis, Aminex, Bardon, Carlton Comm, Cluff Res, Ennex Intl, Ferromet, CE Heath, Intl Business Comm, LIT Pref, YJ Lovell, Nat Home Loan, Premier Cons, Rodime, Saatchi & Saatchi, Tullow Oil.
Puts: Cluff Res, Euro Disney, LIT Pref. **Puts & Calls:** LASMO.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
FT-SE 100 (Previous open interest: 66091)	Mar 94	3401.0	3423.0	3397.0	3419.0	5862
	Jun 94				3430.5	0
Three Month Sterling (Previous open interest: 376143)	Mar 94	94.77	94.83	94.77	94.82	8428
	Jun 94	95.00	95.01	94.99	95.00	4513
	Sep 94	95.04	95.05	95.01	95.04	1874
Three Mth Eurodollar (Previous open interest: 8515)	Mar 94	96.50	96.50	96.49	96.50	163
	Jun 94	96.17	96.17	96.17	96.17	28
Three Mth Euro DM (Previous open interest: 715451)	Mar 94	94.50	94.55	94.49	94.54	20892
	Jun 94	95.00	95.06	95.00	95.05	5856
Long Gilt (Previous open interest: 107521)	Dec 93	120-13	120-13	120-11	120-15	111
	Mar 94	119-13	119-24	119-13	119-22	13454
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 94	117.23	117.36	117.23	117.36	340
	Jun 94				116.27	0
German Gov Bd Bund (Previous open interest: 136973)	Mar 94	100.87	101.05	100.84	100.98	25774
	Jun 94	100.80	100.80	100.80	100.93	10
German Gov Bd Bobl (Previous open interest: 11410)	Mar 94	103.33	103.36	103.30	103.36	451
	Jun 94					0
Three month ECU (Previous open interest: 29865)	Mar 94	94.22	94.26	94.20	94.26	492
	Jun 94	94.72	94.75	94.72	94.76	170
Euro Swiss Franc (Previous open interest: 55214)	Mar 94	96.31	96.35	96.30	96.33	1962
	Jun 94	96.53	96.53	96.52	96.55	66
Italian Govmt Bond (Previous open interest: 80646)	Mar 94	118.50	118.70	118.37	118.48	10591
	Jun 94				118.38	0

MONEY MARKETS

Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at 81.7 (day's range 81.4-81.7).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Dec 23	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.8425-2.8544	2.8508-2.8543	par-⅛ds	⅛-⅜ds
Brussels	52.83-53.08	52.95-53.05	6-11ds	20-29ds
Copenhagen	9.9220-10.0020	9.9790-10.0030	1¼-2⅜ds	4-5½ds
Dublin	1.0492-1.0520	1.0494-1.0517	11-14ds	23-30ds
Frankfurt	2.5416-2.5495	2.5455-2.5489	⅛-¼ds	⅜-⅝ds
Lisbon	259.42-260.91	260.14-260.78	n/a	n/a
Madrid	208.70-209.62	209.32-209.62	69-76ds	173-200ds
Milan	2485.20-2494.80	2490.70-2494.80	5-7ds	17-20ds
Montreal	1.9898-1.9971	1.9929-1.9959	0.33-0.26pr	0.60-0.47pr
New York	1.4945-1.5040	1.5030-1.5040	0.31-0.29pr	0.78-0.75pr
Oslo	11.0130-11.0990	11.0760-11.0990	⅛-1ds	⅝-7⅛ds
Paris	8.6450-8.6890	8.6700-8.6840	⅞-1⅛ds	2⅜-2⅞ds
Stockholm	12.3130-12.4080	12.3830-12.4080	1½-2⅞ds	4¼-6⅛ds
Tokyo	164.91-166.39	166.08-166.35	½-⅜pr	1⅜-1⅛pr
Vienna	17.87-17.95	17.91-17.95	⅛-1⅛ds	⅝-2⅝ds
Zurich	2.1461-2.1575	2.1545-2.1575	⅛-⅛pr	¾-⅛pr

Source: Extel Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.4976-1.5002
Australia dollar	2.2128-2.2159
Bahrain dinar	0.5575-0.5695
Brazil cruzeiro*	434.72-436.22
Cyprus pound	0.7575-0.7675
Finland marka	8.422-8.538
Greece drachma	361.75-368.75
Hong Kong dollar	11.5892-11.5984
India rupee	46.45-47.41
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4415-0.4515
Malaysia ringgit	3.8493-3.8521
Mexico peso	4.57-4.67
New Zealand dollar	2.6813-2.6864
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.547-5.673
Singapore dollar	2.3882-2.3909
S Africa rand (fin)	6.6472-6.7118
S Africa rand (com)	5.0641-5.0721
U A E dirham	5.428-5.552

Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Australia	1.4747-1.4757
Austria	11.920-11.925
Belgium (Com)	35.249-35.321
Canada	1.3240-1.3245
Denmark	6.6245-6.6315
France	5.7770-5.7820
Germany	1.6955-1.6965
Hong Kong	7.7225-7.7235
Ireland	1.4321-1.4336
Italy	1658.5-1659.5
Japan	110.77-110.87
Malaysia	2.5645-2.5655
Netherlands	1.8999-1.9004
Norway	7.3560-7.3590
Portugal	173.30-173.60
Singapore	1.5910-1.5920
Spain	139.40-139.50
Sweden	8.2158-8.2258
Switzerland	1.4335-1.4345

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 5½ Finance Hse 6
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 5 Low 3½
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5⅛; 3 mth 5. Sell: 2 mth 5; 3 mth: 4⅞. Week fixed: 5 11/16

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	5⅜-5¼	5¼-5⅛	5⅛-5	5-4 15/16	
Sterling Money Rates: Interbank:	5⅜-5¼	5 5/16-5 3/16	5¼-5⅛	5⅛-5	5⅛-5
	5½-5⅜	5 7/16-5 5/16	5⅜-5¼	5¼-5⅛	5⅛-5

Overnight: open 5, close 3½.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	5¼	n/a	5¼	5¼	5¼
Sterling CDs:	5⅜-5¼	5⅜-5¼	5¼-5⅛	5⅛-5	5 1/16-4 15/16
Dollar CDs:	3.15	n/a	3.19	3.33	3.65
Building Society CDs:	5⅜-5¼	5⅜-5¼	5 5/16-5 3/16	5¼-5⅛	5⅛-5

ECGD: Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance. Make-up day: Nov 30, 1993 Agreed rates Dec 26, 1993 to Jan 25, 1994 Scheme III: 6.90 %. Reference rate Oct 30, 1993 to Nov 30, 1993 Scheme IV & V: 5.618 %.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	3¼-2⅞	3⅛-3	3⅜-3¼	3½-3⅜	3¼-2¾
Deutschemark:	6⅛-6	6⅛-6	6⅛-6	5⅞-5¾	6¼-5⅞
French Franc:	6⅝-6⅜	6⅝-6½	6⅜-6¼	6⅛-6	7¼-6⅞
Swiss Franc:	4½-4¼	4⅜-4¼	4⅛-4	4-3⅞	4⅛-3½
Yen:	2½-2⅛	2⅜-2¼	2⅛-2	1⅞-1¾	2⅛-1¾

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS

Bullion: Open $385.70-386.10 Close: $385.00-385.40 High: $385.90-386.30 Low: $384.75-385.15 Krugerrand: $387.00-387.50 (£256.50-257.00)
Sovereigns: Old $91.50-93.50 (£60.00-63.00) New $91.50-93.50 (£60.00-63.00)
Platinum: $385.25 (£256.85) Silver: $ (£) Palladium: $124.10 (£82.75)

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Puts Jan	Puts Apr	Puts Jul
Alld Lyon	650	27	45½	54	13½	23½	38
(*661½)	700	6½	22½	30½	44½	52	67
Argyll	260	23	31	36½	4½	9½	16½
(*276)	280	10½	20½	25½	13½	18½	26½
ASDA	50	6½	8½	11	1½	4	5½
(*54½)	60	2	4½	6½	7	9½	11½
Boots	550	34	49½	58½	6	15½	25½
(*575)	600	7	22½	32½	31	40½	51
Br Airways	420	38½	51	59	5	14½	21
(*451)	460	14	28	37	21	30½	40
BP	330	34	41	47	3½	7	12½
(*359½)	360	12	23	30	11½	19	25
Br Steel	120	7	12	16½	4	9	12
(*122)	130	3	7½	11½	10½	15	17
C & W	500	30½	46	58½	8½	18	22
(*518½)	525	17	31½	44½	20½	30	38½
CU	650	18	30½	45½	16	31½	37½
(*651½)	700	3	12	24	53	66	70
ICI	750	34	49½	65	14	35	47½
(*767½)	800	10½	24	43	42½	65	70½
Kingfishr	700	48	65	74½	6	18	29½
(*736½)	750	17	39½	47	28	39½	53½
Land Sec	750	46	62	70½	4½	13	23
(*786½)	800	13	30½	41½	24½	32½	47
M & S	420	27	38	42½	4½	10½	17
(*440½)	460	5½	16½	22½	24	31	37
Nat West	550	48	57	65½	3½	16	22½
(*591)	600	14	27	38	21½	40½	46½
Sainsbury	420	29½	40½	47½	8	15½	24
(*438)	460	5	18½	28	28	36	45½
Shell	700	30	41	52	7½	23½	30½
(*719)	750	6½	16	30	36	54	58½
Smkl Bch	390	19½	33	44	12½	24	31
(*395½)	420	8	21	31½	31	41	48½
Storehse	220	18	25	29½	4	8½	12
(*235½)	240	5	14	18½	13½	18½	22
Trafalgar	90	6	12	17½	6	11	13
(*91½)	100	2½	7½	13½	13½	17	19
Unilever	1150	72½	92½	109	5½	25	36½
(*1209)	1200	39½	59	78½	20½	46½	57
Zeneca	800	33	50	66	16	39½	53½
(*815½)	850	11½	25½	44	46	70½	82½
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Grnd Met	460	27	33	43½	19	24½	29½
(*473)	500	7½	15½	25	43½	48	52½
Ladbroke	160	16½	22	27½	11½	19½	25
(*164)	180	9	14	19	24	32½	37½
Utd Bisc	330	26½	39½	44½	9½	12	16
(*356½)	360	17	21	27½	17	27½	33

	Series	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Puts Jan	Puts Apr	Puts Jul
BAA	1000	55½	83	99	8	24½	37½
(*1040)	1050	24½	53	70½	28	46	60
Thames W	550	40	51½	62	4½	13½	25
(*582½)	600	9	24	34	25½	32½	51
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
BAT Ind	500	52½	57½	63	6½	16½	23½
(*539½)	550	18	27½	34½	25½	42	49½
BTR	360	30	34	41	5½	14	17
(*379½)	390	13	18	25½	19½	29	32½
Br Aero	390	33½	45	58	19	31	39
(*402½)	420	19	32½	43½	35½	47½	55½
Br Telecm	460	36	45	52½	5	8½	15½
(*496½)	500	11	21½	30	32½	26	34½
Cadbury	493	30½	35½	—	9½	22	—
(*509)	542	8½	14	—	37½	51½	—
Guinness	460	39	49	54½	8	16½	23½
(*489½)	500	18	25½	33	24½	37	44½
GEC	330	13	22½	27	10	15	21
(*330)	360	4	9½	14	31½	33½	39½
Hanson	260	19	22	25½	4	8	11½
(*273)	280	7½	11½	15½	13	18	21½
LASMO	110	18½	23½	27	8	12½	15½
(*118)	120	12	18½	23	13½	17	21
Lucas	180	21	24½	29½	5	9	12½
(*193½)	200	9	14	19	14½	19	22½
Pilkingtn	160	24	27½	33	3½	6	9
(*179)	180	10½	15½	22	11	14½	18
Prudential	360	16	21	27	12½	22½	26
(*360½)	390	5	9½	15	33	42½	45
Redland	550	61	69	74½	7½	19½	26
(*599)	600	28½	37	46	23½	43	49
Royal Ins	317	28	—	—	8	—	—
(*334)	346	12	—	—	22	—	—
Tesco	200	18	24	26½	6½	12½	14½
(*211)	220	7½	13½	17	16	24	26
Vodafone	550	52	71½	84½	17	28½	39
(*581½)	600	27½	46	60	41½	53½	64½
Williams	360	17½	24½	29	13	22½	26½
(*362½)	390	6	12	16½	35	42	45

FT-SE INDEX (*3396½)

	3250	3300	3350	3400	3450	3500
Calls						
Jan	166	123	83	50	27	14
Feb	185	146	109	79	53	35
Mar	201	164	129	99	74	52
Apr	215	178	145	115	90	68
Jun	—	208	—	143	—	100
Puts						
Jan	11	17	28	50	79	117
Feb	21	32	45	66	91	124
Mar	36	48	63	83	109	139
Apr	47	58	75	96	123	151
Jun	—	84	—	122	—	176

	Series	Calls Mar	Calls Jun	Calls Sep	Puts Mar	Puts Jun	Puts Sep
Abby Nat	460	43	48	55½	12½	18½	24½
(*488)	500	19	27½	35½	32½	39	44½
Amstrad	40	5	6½	8½	4½	5½	7
(*40½)	45	3	5	6½	7½	8½	10
Barclays	600	48	56½	67½	21½	28½	37
(*624)	650	22½	32½	44	49	55	63½
Blue Circ	330	33	39½	47	13	20½	26
(*347½)	360	16½	24½	32½	28	30½	42½
Br Gas	330	21	25	30	10	18	21
(*338½)	360	7½	12½	16½	28½	37	39
Dixons	260	26½	34	39½	12	17	23½
(*274)	280	16	23½	29	21½	27	34
Forte	260	17	21½	26½	15	22	25½
(*261)	280	8½	13	18	27½	34	37½
Hillsdwn	160	12½	15	17	10½	16	19
(*160½)	180	5½	7½	9½	23½	31	33
Lonrho	130	11½	15½	20	11	15	18½
(*139)	140	7	11½	16	17½	21	25
Sears	120	14½	16½	19	3½	5½	7
(*129)	130	8½	11	13½	7½	11	12½
Thrn Eml	1000	48	70	83½	38	49½	67½
(*1008½)	1050	26	47	59½	68½	77½	97
Tomkins	220	19½	25	29	7	11½	16
(*231½)	240	11	14½	18½	18½	22	27
TSB	240	23½	28½	33	8½	12½	16½
(*254)	260	12	17½	23	19	22	27
Wellcome	650	48½	61½	81	37	53½	64
(*652½)	700	27	42½	59	67½	84	97½
	Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Glaxo	700	61	86½	98½	37	53	67
(*722½)	750	38	62½	74½	65	79	94½
HSBC	900	58½	78½	94	59	71½	82
(*902½)	950	36	58	73½	90	101	111½
Reuter	1800	190	187½	221	61	81	98½
(*1880)	1850	119½	161	194½	84	105	122
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
R-Royce	156	16½	—	—	6	—	—
(*165)	176	6½	—	—	17	—	—
	Series	Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep
Fisons	110	16	23½	29	13	18½	22½
(*112)	120	11½	18½	25	19	25	29
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Eastn Elc	660	58	70	80	8	14½	25
(*700½)	700	24½	40	50½	27½	34½	47½
	Series	Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep
Natl Pwr	460	50½	59½	66	8½	15	20½
(*490½)	500	—	36½	44½	22	32	38½
Scot Pwr	460	39	45½	53	12	17	25
(*482)	500	15½	26	33	32½	37½	45

December 23, 1993 Tot: 41506 Calls: 23934 Puts: 17572 FT-SE Calls: 4876 Puts: 3039
*Underlying security price.

COMMODITIES

GNI REPORT: Cocoa was the only market to enjoy a significant bout of activity in advance of the winter break. Indeed some of the buying activity can be attributed to shorts taking profits ahead of the holiday. But there was also a certain amount of bargain hunting by speculators, and possibly some industry buying. The sharp sell off earlier in the week must be considered healthy if the uptrend is to resume.

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Dec	885-871	Mar	990-989
Mar	929-928	May	1006-1003
May	945-943	Jul	1018-1016
Jul	953-950	Sep	1025-1022
Sep	964-963		
Dec	977-976		Volume: 11017

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jan	1220-1217	Sep	1224-1220
Mar	1232-1230	Nov	1224-1218
May	1226-1225	Jan	1224-1218
Jul	1222-1220		Volume: 1834

NO.7 PREMIUM RAW SUGAR (6.00pm)

		Oct	10.98-11.06
Spot	265.70	Jan	unq
Mar	10.73-10.79	Mar	unq
May	11.02-11.08	May	unq
Jul	11.20-11.26		Volume: 24

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	278.9-77.5
Spot: 283.0		Dec	278.4-75.5
Mar	282.5-82.0	Mar	279.4-76.5
May	285.0-84.2	May	282.4-77.5
Aug	289.4-88.0		Volume: 634

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION
Average fatstock prices at representative markets on December 23

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	74.74	98.34	124.31
(+/-)	-2.16	-6.58	-2.90
Eng/Wales:	72.28	98.48	123.79
(+/-)	-4.62	+6.19	-2.97
(%)	-94.9	-68.8	-75.0
Scotland	85.71	97.77	125.25
(+/-)	+8.97	-8.35	-1.32
(%)	-30.4	-67.3	-40.9

LONDON MEAT FUTURES
Live Pig (/kg)

	Open	Close		Open	Close
Aug	unq	—	Mar	unq	—
Sep	unq	...			Volume: 0

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)

Jan	96.40
Mar	100.40
May	101.70
Jun	102.45
Sep	89.80
	Volume: 289

BARLEY (close £/t)

Jan	103.70
Mar	105.45
May	107.50
Sep	92.65
Nov	94.90
	Volume: 40

HI-PRO SOYA (close £/t)

Aug	unq
Oct	...
Dec	...
Feb	...
Apr	...
	Volume: 0

POTATO

(£/t)	Open	Close
Mar	unq	131.0
Apr	102.0	104.0
May	119.0	119.0
		Volume: 301

RUBBER
No 1 RSS Cif (p/k)
Jan 61.50-62.00

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm): An exercise in book balancing ahead of the holidays resulted in weaker numbers.

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	13.45	-0.15
Brent 15 day (Jan)	13.50	-0.10
Brent 15 day (Feb)	13.65	-0.10
W Texas Intermediate (Feb)	14.60	-0.15
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	14.90	-0.10

PRODUCTS ($/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid:	Offer:
Premium Gas .15	144 (-1)	146 (-1)
Gasoil EEC	142 (-1)	143 (-1)
Non EEC 1H Jan	146 (-1)	148 (-1)
Non EEC 1H Feb	146 (-1)	149 (-1)
3.5 Fuel Oil	53 (-1)	55 (n/c)
Naphtha	129 (-1)	132 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES
GNI Ltd
GAS OIL

Jan	141.75-42.00	Apr	143.50-43.75
Feb	142.75-43.00	May	144.25-44.50
Mar	143.00-43.25	Jun	144.75 BID
			Vol: 12636

BRENT (6.00pm)

Feb	13.65-13.66	May	14.26-14.33
Mar	13.85-13.88	Jun	14.46-14.55
Apr	14.06-14.10		Vol: 12606

UNLEADED GASOLINE

Jan	139.50-43.00	Apr	161.00 SLR
Feb	145.00-46.75	May	162.50-63.00
Mar	unq		Vol: 50

BIFFEX
GNI Ltd ($10/pt)

	High: 1250	Low: 1250	Close:
Jan 94			1244
Feb 94	—	—	1263
Apr 94	—	—	1298
Jul 94	—	—	1173

Vol: 39 lots. Open int'st: 2285 Index 1221 -1

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE Rudolf Wolff

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	1772.5-1773.0	1796.0-1796.5	1825950
Lead ($/tonne)	469.00-470.00	482.00-483.00	147275
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	973.00-974.00	991.00-992.00	367025
Tin ($/tonne)	4775.0-4780.0	4824.0-4825.0	19480
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1105.0-1105.5	1122.0-1122.5	938125
Nickel ($/tonne)	5270.0-5275.0	5325.0-5330.0	61260

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الاصل



Customers hunt for Christmas bargains in London's Burlington Arcade and the new Bentall's centre in Kingston upon Thames, Surrey

Shoppers search for value and put pressure on prices

Susan Gilchrist detects a sea change in retailers' pricing policies in response to the public's caution over spending their money

Only a few years ago the Christmas holiday was not complete without the familiar spectacle of the bargain-hungry shopper camped outside his local department store with his primus stove and sleeping bag a week before the January sale. Nothing — not even sub-zero temperatures and interviews by journalists — would deter him from his bid to be the first in the queue to buy the television set on special offer at £20. It was as much a part of the yuletide tradition as turkey, the Queen's Speech and the Morecambe and Wise Christmas special.

Nowadays the sales are no longer a special occasion, but a way of life. There are end-of-season sales, mid-season sales, special offers, interest free credit, two for the price of one discounts and blue cross days. The sales are no longer an annual event but a year-round phenomenon. As Richard Hyman of Verdict, the retail consultants, says: "The word *sale* has been made virtually redundant."

But while it seems the high street in 1993 has been in permanent discount mode, the facts suggest there is a subtle change afoot. A recent survey by Verdict of pricing in the women's clothing market actually showed a reduction in the level of discounting with 21 per cent of the product offer marked down compared with 23 per cent a year ago.

While the figures suggest there are still a lot of red and white "Everything Must Go" posters about, they also imply retailers are beginning to realise that discounting is not a sure-fire way to get the reluctant and recession-hardened shopper of the 1990s to part with his or her money. As Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, chairman of Kingfisher, the B&Q to Comet retail empire, recently said: "The simple fact is that the more you discount, the less faith the consumer has in your pricing in the first place. Guarantee competitive pricing from the outset and the customer has no reason to go elsewhere." In other words, consumers are prepared to pay full price, it's just their concept of what full price is that has changed.

Kingfisher has applied this philosophy with devastating effect at B&Q, which has eschewed the tactical discount wars that have plagued the DIY market in favour of *permanently* low prices on 500 core products. The result of its "Key DIY" campaign has been a marked rise in turnover at the expense of its main rivals. Unsurprisingly, the group's mantra of "Everyday Low Pricing" is now being echoed by others.

Paula Alexander, head of corporate communications at Sears, says there has been a substantial reduction in the level of markdowns within the group this year. This year's autumn mid-season sale at the resurgent British Shoe Corporation, which includes the Saxone and Dolcis chains, ran for four weeks compared with eight weeks last year. BSC has instead introduced lower price ranges such as its Jouralle court shoe, which retails at £9.99. It now sells 40,000 pairs a week, four times the volume of the shoe it replaced. Ms Alexander says simply: "These days people are more canny about value."

Mr Hyman agrees: "Consumers are not taken in any more. Reducing something from £10 to £8 is just not good enough, they can see right through it. They want the price to start at £8."

This realisation has also dawned at Burton, the high street fashion retailer, where discounting and markdowns were reaching endemic proportions. Customers at its Burtons, Dorothy Perkins and Top Shop/Top Man chains rapidly learnt that there was no point in buying a garment at full price when they could probably get it at half price the following week. While the group's sales line exuded a healthy glow, the bottom line looked decidedly sickly with the fashion chains making profits of less than £10 million on turnover of just under £1 billion.

When John Hoerner took over as chief executive in February last year he decided to bring an end to the discount culture and re-establish the brand integrity of the stores in order to persuade customers that it was worthwhile paying full price.

It has not been a simple task. The group has had to overhaul its whole price architecture and establish lower opening price points which customers would believe represented good value for money. Prices on like-for-like merchandise are now on average 5 to 10 per cent lower.

While sales and special offers still feature, the group has substantially more weeks of prime trading than it did two years ago. Anyone walking into a Burtons store on the Saturday two weeks before Christmas would have noticed that the entire stock was marked down by 25 per cent in one of the chain's subtlely entitled "Megaday" sales. This year there was no pre-Christmas sale.

Although full price has to be more competitive, it does not have to be the lowest. Mr Hyman says: "People want better value for money not cheapness. They want all the qualitative things they got in the 1980s but at a price they believe offers value for money. And the overcapacity in the industry as a result of the explosion of space in the late-1980s means they are going to get it. For the first time in many years in retailing it is a buyers' market."

Ms Alexander agrees: "People are not just looking for the cheapest price. Customers are very savvy and know they can get a good deal." She cites a recent example at Adams, Sears' childrenswear chain, where a £24.99 jacket sold twice as fast as one for £15.99. "We thought it would be the cheaper one that would sell out, not the other way round. But customers looked at the extras they were getting for the more expensive one and decided that was better value for money."

This new consumer attitude has been successfully exploited by Marks & Spencer in its Outstanding Value Campaign, now in its second year, which froze or lowered prices across the board. M&S's customers have always believed the store offered quality, as a result of the campaign they are now also convinced it offers excellent value for money too.

Although M&S has few markdowns and is still far from being the cheapest clothing retailer in its sector on the high street, its like-for-like sales are running comfortably ahead of many of its competitors.

The same phenomenon is evident outside of fashion retailing. John Clare, managing director of Dixons, the leading electrical retailer, says the group puts its efforts into providing "added value" rather than just the cheapest price. "You have to be competitive, but price is only an edge for a day until some competitor comes along and matches it."

Moreover, Dixons' consumer research shows that when it comes to selecting an electrical retailer the factor of price has actually fallen in importance during the recession. Mr Clare believes the new consumer approach is not simply a short-term phenomenon, but a permanent feature of the retailing environment. "There is no doubt 1994 will see more of the same."

Oscar Wilde once said that some people know the price of everything and the value of nothing. It seems that today's consumer has the measure of both.



Special offers have become a permanent feature in the high street

TEMPUS

Santa's stockmarket

THE rise in retail share prices yesterday suggests the City still believes in Father Christmas. Shares in companies such as Next, Storehouse and Boots rose by up to 5 per cent as investors speculated on a good Christmas in the high street. Clearly brokers are either expecting full stockings or they have just blown their generous bonuses on presents for the family.

The surge in store shares was partly caused by a trading statement from Flying Flowers, a recent issue, which said trading was 30 per cent ahead of last year. But the picture of pre-Christmas spending from more representative sources is less effusive. Barclaycard says overall spending on its 9 million cards this month is up 8 per cent on last year. Since credit card sales continue to grow faster than overall spending, this implies a rise in high street turnover of up to 3 per cent, not far from what it has been all year. Although this is not insignificant it hardly constitutes a boom.

Barclaycard's data supports eye-witness accounts of pre-Christmas sales and discounts. Indeed, last weekend's mini-boom, when credit card turnover rose 15 per cent from last year, could merely show that shoppers are continuing to wait for bargains.

The clearest indication that consumer spending is still subdued comes from the pattern of Barclaycard turnover. The largest rise in turnover occurred in supermarkets, where it rose 24 per cent. Spending on consumer goods like jewellery by contrast is still subdued. However excited the City may be about Christmas, there is no sign of a return to the free-spending days before the recession.

Paramount

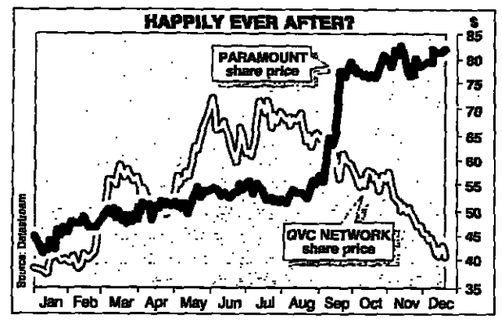
AS PUNTERS watched the great Paramount auction they yelled: "Higher, higher". Any suggestion that the bid battle for the media group might be entering its end-game was quickly squashed yesterday by the Wall Street arbitrageurs, who have a keen interest in pushing the price as high as they can.

The increased offer from QVC on Wednesday night has pushed the affair into record territory. Matsushita paid 13 times earnings before interest, tax and depreciation for MCA, which was itself thought to be exorbitant. That implied a final price of $90 a share for Paramount, but QVC has beaten this by $2 in its latest offer.

The real surprise is that Viacom has kept its lower tender offer open until the new year, which gives some credence to suggestions that it is casting around for additional finance to make a further counter-offer.

It is difficult to see how either bidder can justify such a price. The performance of QVC's shares since September shows that Wall Street has little confidence that Barry Diller can make the take-over work.

At least the whole affair has been shorn of its legal posturing since the outcome in the Delaware courts, and Paramount has been forced to offer both bidders level playing fields. This should speed up the conclusion of this epic. But Viacom would do well to admit defeat now, rather than risk its entire future just to prove a point.



Unilever

LOSSES at Ortiz-Miko are unlikely to ruin Christmas for Unilever, the annual profits of which dwarf even the turnover of the French ice cream and frozen food manufacturer. Yet apparent lack of concern from the Anglo-Dutch giant and noises about poor summer weather are only half the story, as the news from across the Channel amounts to more than spilt milk.

Ortiz-Miko has, for some time, been suffering from price pressure and competition from Mars and Häagen-Dazs. The French group's market share of 16-18 per cent is behind both Nestlé and Unilever and last year's miserly profit of Fr12.7 million was achieved on the slimmest of operating margins. The picture gets worse this year, with first-half losses and a deficit forecast for the full year — yet Ortiz-Miko shares were trading on a price earnings ratios of well over 100 times 1992 earnings, even before the Unilever offer.

Posh ice creams sell at almost any price these days, and the astonishing margins earned by other companies on impulse brands suggest Ortiz-Miko's weaknesses go deeper than just a poor summer. The Anglo-Dutch group has its own defence against Häagen-Dazs and Mars in Magnum, its new brand, and the French company's market share is more attractive than its brands.

Having set itself the objective of becoming the emperor of ice cream, Unilever could hardly shrink from paying a full price for Ortiz, comfortable in the knowledge that we will continue to pay silly prices for the product.

YJ Lovell

YJ LOVELL shareholders could be forgiven for not sharing in the festivities. The ugly details of the construction group's restructuring show that existing ordinary shareholders will be diluted down to 11 per cent of the equity, while the banks, led by Barclays, take effective control, with a fully diluted 49 per cent stake.

This is tough on the investors, who thought they were bailing Lovell out in its £30 million rights issue two years ago, at 130p a share. But £30 million did not even provide a fig leaf to cover the growing holes in Lovell's balance sheet then, and shareholders are now being asked to subscribe again at 10p a share.

The £77 million Lovell is raising before expenses leaves it looking viable, but hardly flush with cash. On-balance sheet gearing is only 30 per cent following the reconstruction, but the inclusion of £40 million in off-balance-sheet debt increases this to 93 per cent.

Lovell should be able to manage to get this down, as it closes and sells off peripheral businesses. The remaining businesses, particularly housebuilding in Britain and America, need the cash generated by disposals to expand their landbanks. Such expansion is badly needed since the group's continuing business managed to turn in a £370,000 profit before exceptionals, on £208 million turnover.

The ten into one consolidation of Lovell's shares will take the company out of the range of penny share tipsters. But it will not make the company's long route back to health any shorter.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Prudential approach to transfer of pension benefits

From the Chief Executive, Prudential Corporation

Sir, I am seriously concerned about the recent publication by the Securities and Investments Board of a KPMG survey on transfers of benefits from occupational pension schemes to personal pension contracts.

The survey looked at ten companies out of the 240 members of Lautro — the Prudential was not among them.

We have taken and continue to take a prudent and responsible approach to such transfers and do not accept that the results of the survey apply to pension transfer policies arranged through Prudential representatives. Nevertheless, we shall of course be happy to discuss any concerns our customers may have.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL NEWMARCH,
Chief Executive,
Prudential Corporation,
142 Holborn Bars,
EC1.

Monetary fallacy

From Mr Thomas Haran

Sir, In his column (December 10), Anthony Harris puts his faith in unsound monetary theory. The "lump-of-money" concept is not a fallacy.

A performs a service for B and accepts his IOU. Money has been created. A is a service creditor, B a service debtor. B performs a reciprocal service for A and recovers his IOU; money has been destroyed. The use of third-party IOUs (banknotes) does not alter this basic situation. Banknotes can circulate, but purchasing power does not.

The outstanding money supply is, therefore, a limited amount and additional government expenditure can only be financed at the expense of existing borrowing — that is, crowding out.

The correct remedy is to cut pay and prices in step. Less borrowing would then be required to finance the current standard of living and the markets should be left to use the surplus to finance recovery and growth.

Mr Clarke has got the first part right, but has he the courage to implement the second? As for Mr Harris, he should read my book *The Monetary Analysis.*

Yours faithfully,
THOMAS HARAN,
23 Orchard Road,
Bromley, Kent.

Insurance 'creaming' means many pay more

From W. David

Sir, Hats off to Mr Peter Wood (of Direct Line) for earning his mega-bucks by giving the established industry a bloody nose, but only a muted cheer because I have had to pay. Is it really insurance as it has come to be understood to cover only the cream of a market?

The result is that those who do not attract a welcome from his computer have to stay with the traditional industry and pay premiums commensurate with the risk of what is left. Insurance is based on a spread of risk, cross-subsidy if you like, but of course every claim is a subsidy by those fortunate enough to escape damage. The new company, "targeting higher-risk customers" will aggravate the situation, with the result that those most in need of cover will be tempted to go without. How will the industry's compensation fund for victims of the uninsured survive? A straight percentage charge on all premiums will make the situation even more skew and this at a time when a worrying proportion of drivers are "self-insured".

Yours faithfully,
W. DAVID,
29 Frognal, NW3.

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Cracker of a haggis

CHRISTMAS always poses a dilemma for Peter Cole, chairman of South Green Holdings of Brecon, South Wales, which is famous for making the world's most expensive Christmas crackers. Cole, whose company provides custom-designed crackers for Harrods, Fortnum & Masons, the QEZ and others, has to take particular care over the choice of jokes, since obvious targets, such as royalty, may well be among the customers. "Our jokes never contain anything to do with royalty, racism, politics or religion," says Cole, whose goods sell for as much as £300 for six. "Christmas is a happy occasion and it will be unfortunate if the butt of a particular joke was someone who was sitting around the table." Customers include Middle Eastern rulers, foreign diplomats and celebrities such as Elizabeth Taylor, who has a penchant for silk-covered crackers. Indeed, no challenge is too great. One Scottish customer even asked for a cracker done in tweed ... containing a small haggis.

Sleighing santas

EIGHT Santas working in shopping malls in Denver, Colorado, have been forced to take the first sleigh out of town, after receiving some unseasonal death threats. The anonymous threats, made by letter and fax, warned that the Santas could go the same way as the victims of a shooting spree, in which four people died at a pizza restaurant last week. The warning was signed: "Terminator".

Memo to ...

OUR final festive merit award of the year goes to Lewis Silkin, the solicitor, which has printed a spoof "Memo to Santa" on the cover of its Christmas card. It demands a range of items including a lawyer's watch, pencil, and "beauty parade" kit, and notes, without prejudice, that milk and biscuits will be available in meeting room 3. Among runners-up, ECI Ventures, the venture capital firm, has a picture of Sir John Banham wearing a silly hat on its cover; PR man Philip Barrow's card reads: "Philip Barr ho ho ho", and Michael Peters, of Identica, has sent a minimalist card: it is completely blank. Finally, we wonder whether Morgan Stanley is about to tie the knot with J. Henry Schroder Wagg? Their cards are identical.

Carol circular

ROBIN Angus, of NatWest Markets, thinks all this talk about juicy bonuses in the City should be taken with a pinch of salt. His annual "Christmas Carol" circular, sung to the tune of Good King Wenceslas, includes the verse: "Meanwhile '93 has seen/financial market roaring. What a glory-year it's been! The indices are soaring! But don't believe the tales you read/of bonuses they're giving: I've proved, by sending out this screed, I STILL must earn a living ..." Amen to that.

LITTLE boy, overheard on a bus in Bath: "Grandad is giving me a watch for Christmas. It's one of those new watches — you don't have to put batteries in it, you just wind it up."

Top of the tree

WOMEN in top jobs in America are taking home multi-million dollar salaries — but still earn substantially less than men in similar jobs. The exercising of stock options took Turi Josefsen, executive vice-president of US Surgical, to the top of the list by value at $26.7 million, according to a survey by *Working Woman* magazine. Linda Wachner, chief executive of Warnaco Group, earned the highest salary — $1.86 million — and the highest bonus — $1.3 million, but only came in sixth overall because of the number of women executives cashing in their stock options. Thirteen women earned $1 million or more in 1992. The magazine also reports the wage gap is widening among upper level managers. The average woman in middle and upper management earned $187,000 in salary and bonuses in 1992 — 57 per cent of the estimated $327,000 average annual compensation for male executives.

Mistletoe and wine

THE title of a most helpful article on how to survive the office party carried by *Men's Health*, an American magazine, is "Guided mistletoe". Addressing the question of how much one should drink at the annual Christmas binge, it warns sagely that not drinking could make colleagues suspect your motives and make them surly and distrustful, adding: "They may attempt to kill you by sneaking toner into your onion dip." There is far more in a similar vein, but suffice it to say that, next month, the magazine promises a follow-up entitled: "What Colour is your Wenceslas? — tips for the post-holiday job search."

ABOUT three years ago, I was rash enough to buy Carlton Communications shares at 915p. I watched with interest as they fell to 298p, and am delighted to see that they are back where they started, closing at 940p yesterday. Merry Christmas, Mr Green ...

JON ASHWORTH



THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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2nd Smaller Cos 163.60 174.80 + 1.50 1.17
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Income Gwth 353.50 377.30† + 1.20 4.07
Japan 303.80 323.00† + 1.20 ...
Pacific 123.00 130.90† + 0.50 0.63
UK Smlr Cos 49.02 52.15 + 0.28 0.83
Japan Sm Cos 687.70 717.80 + 2.70 ...
Mngd Fd 181.10 192.70 + 1.30 3.52

BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD
36 Queen St, London EC4R 1BN 071 489 8673
Brit & Oseas 300.70 316.50 ... 1.12
Capital Gwth 119.50 125.80 ... 2.14
Wwide Opps 199.00 209.50 ... 0.46

BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD
11 Broadway, Stratford E15 4BJ 081 534 5544
Balanced Trusts
Brit Inv Fd Inc 364.90 380.10 + 3.40 2.43
European Bd Inc 101.70 105.30 - 0.20 7.05
Exempt 80.10 85.44 + 0.77 3.69
Financial 77.72 83.12† + 0.27 2.07
500 00 454.30 464.60 + 2.70 2.32
General 285.00 304.80 + 1.80 2.21
Property 244.70 261.70† ... 3.66
Trustee 194.20 207.70† + 1.70 1.84
Income Trusts
Cash Inc 100.90 100.90 ... 4.83
Extra Income 122.40 130.90 + 0.80 3.91
Gilt & Fxd Int 63.76 65.89† ... 7.56
Income 563.40 602.60 + 4.70 3.52
Income Builder 69.33 73.75 + 0.46 4.48
Intl Income 68.90 73.30† + 0.29 2.83
Growth Trusts - UK
Capital 123.60 131.90 + 0.80 2.28
Leisure 119.90 128.30 + 1.20 1.33
Recovery 420.90 450.00 + 2.60 2.35
Smlr Cos Inc 40.86 43.60 + 0.15 2.02
Special Sits 282.70 302.40 + 2.40 1.82
Growth Trusts - Overseas
America 132.60 140.20† - 0.10 0.15
Aust Acc 239.20 254.90 - 0.50 1.45
Aust Inc 149.70 159.30† - 0.30 1.45
Euro Gwth Inc 141.40 149.90 + 1.70 0.42
Japan & Gen Inc 167.40 177.20 + 0.70 ...
Japan Spec Sits 72.63 76.94 + 0.34 ...
Latin Tech Inc 76.51 81.31 + 0.57 0.60
Worldwide 174.10 194.90 - 1.00 0.52

BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD
PO Box 156, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4XQ
081 658 9002
American Growth 98.35 104.40 - 0.40 0.10
Amer Smlr Cos 130.10 139.40 - 1.30 ...
Cash Trust 50.30 50.30† ... 4.90
Convertibles 59.15 63.26† + 0.31 5.60
Eastern 302.80 327.20 - 1.60 1.60
Equity Income 94.94 101.00 + 0.60 5.00
European Growth 291.50 309.70 + 3.10 1.50
Europe 200.90 214.10† + 3.00 1.50
German Growth 76.37 81.30 + 0.55 0.70
Global Bond 71.67 75.65 + 0.02 5.30
Global Growth 128.50 137.20† + 0.50 ...
Japan Growth 195.20 209.50 + 0.70 ..
Japan Smlr Cos 168.80 180.20 + 0.30 ..
Korea Trust 65.56 70.03 - 0.99 ..
Portfolio 137.60 147.10 + 0.80 3.20
UK Growth 93.53 99.53 + 0.37 2.90
UK Smaller Cos 90.22 94.97 + 0.75 1.90
Select Managers 76.93 82.09 + 0.32 2.00

BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD
26-34 Old Street, London EC1V 9HL
071 250 3300
Intl Gwth Port Inc 77.90 82.57 ... ...
Special Oppor Inc 52.25 55.59 ... ...

BREWIN DOLPHIN UT MGRS LTD
5 Giltspur St, London EC1A 9DE 071 236 6441
Special Sits 172.50 184.50 + 0.90 0.51
Dividend 86.41 92.42 + 1.47 4.15
Int Gth & Inc 232.20 248.30 + 1.20 2.64
UK & Gen 46.92 50.18 + 0.47 1.29
Fund of Funds 66.44 71.06 + 0.23 ...

BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MGRS LTD
50 Bothwell Street, Glasgow G2 6HR
041 221 6020
Balanced Growth 110.67 118.37 + 0.92 1.56
Smaller Cos 98.61 105.34 - 0.39 1.03
Higher Yield 46.40 49.63 - 0.34 3.01
American Gth Inc 68.49 73.24 - 0.47 ...
European Growth 125.27 135.05 - 1.53 0.17
Global Bond Inc 31.64 33.57 - 0.03 4.86
Mngd Pfolio Inc 42.62 45.58 + 0.12 1.06

BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD
117 Fenchurch St, London EC3M 5AL
071 480 7216
Short Dated Gilt 70.24 71.10 - 0.03 4.90

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
PO Box 105, Manchester M60 0AH
061 837 5060
Environ 151.20 160.91† + 1.40 1.75
UK Growth 172.30 183.30 + 1.50 1.72
UK Income 142.70 151.90 + 1.10 3.67

CANADA LIFE UNIT TST MGRS LTD
High St, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA
0707 651 122
Can Gen Dist 194.30 205.90 + 1.70 1.76
-do- Income Dist 117.00 124.00 + 0.50 4.31
Gilt & Fxd Int 46.00 48.70 + 0.04 5.51

For Cannon see Lincoln National

CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD
35 Fountain Street, Manchester M2 2AF
061 236 5685 Enq: 061 236 5685 Dlg: 061 236 5362
American & Gen 146.00 155.40 - 1.00 ...
European Inc 78.32 82.89 + 0.54 0.72
Far East & Gen 63.84 67.92 + 0.12 ...
Smaller Cos (4-1) 77.11 82.04 + 0.49 1.55
Growth 434.10 464.30 + 2.10 2.09
Income & Growth 438.60 466.60 + 3.80 3.30
Master Portfolio 10857 11270 +39.00 1.92
Special Sits 99.65 106.02 + 0.57 2.08
High Yield 1402.0 1446.0† +12.00 3.80

CAPITAL HOUSE UNIT TST MGRS
Capital House, Festival Square, Edinburgh
031 228 4477 Dealing: 0800 833 561
American Gwth Tst 37.00 39.57 - 0.02 0.93
Cash Income 50.20 50.20† ... 5.39
European Gwth 39.42 42.04 + 0.24 0.83
Income & Gwth Inc 29.43 31.47 + 0.29 3.93
Intnl Gwth 31.35 33.52 + 0.13 0.77
Japan Gwth 24.72 26.43 + 0.05 ...
Managed Tst Inc 50.93 54.47 + 0.37 0.48
Oriental Opps Inc 167.10 178.70 + 0.50 0.55
Property Shares 43.52 46.54† + 0.14 1.75
Smaller Cos 30.16 32.25 + 0.21 1.64
UK Growth Tst 26.51 28.35 + 0.19 2.66
Royal Scottish Assurance
Cap Hse Global Inc 74.61 79.79 + 0.53 1.61
Cap Hse UK Inc 70.73 75.64† + 0.69 2.26
Exempt 23.90 24.26 ... ...
Formerly Brown Shipley
European Inc 26.13 27.94 + 0.14 0.38
European Acc 27.10 28.98 + 0.15 0.38
Financial 152.30 162.80 + 1.00 2.50
Foundation 89.61 95.83 + 0.61 2.66
German 52.50 56.14† + 0.62 0.07
High Income 80.42 86.01† - 0.31 5.93
Income 138.60 148.20 + 1.10 3.71
Intl Growth 37.98 40.62 + 0.12 0.16
Mngd Pfolio Inc 106.10 113.40 + 0.30 1.63
Mngd Pfolio Acc 201.90 215.80 - 0.60 1.63
Monthly Income 80.41 86.00† - 1.40 3.74
North American 105.80 113.10† - 0.60 0.10
Orient 144.60 154.60 + 0.30 ..

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
3 Copthall Avenue, London EC2R 7BH
071 606 0708
Cazenove Portfolio 84.22 90.08 + 0.63 2.21
American Portfolio 69.69 [illegible] - 0.13 1.00
European Portfolio 91.08 97.23 + 0.79 1.03
Japanese Portfolio 61.52 65.53 + 0.15 ...
Pacific Portfolio 150.26 161.58† + 1.56 0.71
UK Inc & Growth 76.36 81.93 + 0.65 3.75
Utility & Bond 61.57 62.15 + 0.62 5.91

CENTURY UNIT TRUSTS LTD
5 Old Bailey, London EC4M 7BA 071 332 5000
UK General Tst 69.33 73.75 + 0.59 2.71
Global Tst 62.85 66.86 + 0.30 0.29
Recovery Tst 71.39 75.94 + 0.59 1.74

CHARTERED ASSET MGMT LTD
151 Farringdon Rd, London EC1R 3AD
071 837 7667
Intl Growth 142.50 153.89† ... ...
UK Growth 108.22 117.33 ... 1.09
UK Income 109.48 118.96† ... 4.09

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
1 White Hart Yard, London Bridge SE1
071 407 5966
Beckman Intl 92.35 97.54 ... 1.71
Beck Bio-Tech 38.99 41.48† - 1.31 ...
Acorn Ethical Tst 156.38 164.61† ... 1.13
City Fin Assets 72.19 75.99 ... 1.61
City Fin America 80.24 84.46 ... ...
City Fin Intl 76.47 80.49 ... 0.49
City Fin Japan 153.71 161.80 ... ...
Friars Hse Cap 276.31 290.85 ... 2.23
Friars Hse Inc 210.91 223.16† ... 4.79
Buckley Wrld Grth 137.37 146.14 ... 0.68
Fairmnt Cap Gth 138.15 145.42† - 2.06 ...
-do- Inc & Gth 115.56 121.64† - 1.23 1.59
Fairmount Intl 158.64 166.99† + 2.64 ...
City Fin Pflo Inc 62.86 66.87† + 0.97 3.33

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
10 Eastcheap, London EC3M 1AJ 0392 412 144
Emerging Markets 58.02 61.56 - 0.23 ...

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH 0800 373 393
American Gwth 56.11 60.50 - 0.11 ...
Atlas Mngd Gwth 37.40 40.22 + 0.35 0.13
Dragon Growth 80.60 86.20 + 0.95 0.28
Equity High Inc 87.74 92.75† + 0.97 3.38
European Gwth 49.10 51.90 + 0.22 0.74
Evergreen 29.70 31.76 + 0.20 ...
General Equity 87.29 92.27 + 0.85 2.07
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc 28.20 29.64 + 0.03 7.85
Japan Growth 43.42 46.86 + 0.08 ...
Pedigree Gwth 51.45 54.59 + 0.44 1.99
Ptd Sm Cos Inc 31.34 33.13 + 0.23 0.86
Retirement Inc 27.61 29.69 + 0.31 5.07
Special Sits 36.87 39.43 + 0.24 1.86
UK & Overseas 50.36 53.23 + 0.46 0.98

COLONIAL MUTUAL UT MGRS LTD
Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY
0634 895 000
Capital 67.07 71.73 + 0.50 2.68
Income 64.62 69.11 + 0.52 3.60

COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT INTERNATIONAL LTD
Exchange Court, 3 Bedford Park, Croydon CR0 2AQ 081 686 9818
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)
Income Funds
Equity Inc 171.58 182.53 + 1.18 4.84
Fixed & Convertible 47.71 50.75 + 0.08 5.60
Monthly Inc Plus 54.20 57.66 + 0.03 7.77
Preference Share 53.39 56.80 + 0.05 6.70
Balanced Funds
High Yield 140.10 149.04 - 0.97 5.51
Managed Fund 70.05 74.52 + 0.36 2.71
UK Growth Funds
Smaller Cos 41.80 44.47 + 1.73 1.85
UK & General 81.01 86.18 + 0.75 3.51
UK Growth 140.11 149.05 + 1.41 1.60
International Growth Funds
Europe Growth 181.87 193.48 + 1.14 ...
Far Eastern Gth 143.78 152.96 + 3.62 0.27
Global Bond 88.14 93.66 + 0.11 5.70
Japan Growth 109.22 116.19 + 1.52 ...
North Amer Grth 163.76 174.21 + 1.80 ...
Oriental Growth 90.81 96.61 + 0.69 ...
Worldwide Growth 63.21 67.24 + 0.10 0.25
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)
Deposit Fund 92.28 92.28 + 0.01 4.79
Homemaker Fund 79.54 84.62 + 0.68 1.81
Quilter Fund 142.79 151.90 + 1.44 1.96

CONFEDERATION FUNDS MGMT LTD
Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN
0438 744 840
Growth Inc 60.36 64.21 + 0.57 2.80
High Income 35.55 37.81 + 0.25 4.30
Japan 31.88 33.91 + 0.07 ...
Smaller Cos Inc 30.13 32.05† + 0.29 2.40
Smaller Cos 31.35 33.35† + 0.30 2.40
North American 31.52 33.85 + 0.16 0.50
European 36.29 38.60 + 0.20 0.60

CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD
1 White Hart Yd, London Bridge SE1 1NX
071 407 5966
Consistent UT 32.51 34.87 + 0.80 4.24

COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD
1 King St, Manchester M60 3AH 0800 526 358
Growth 137.60 146.40 + 0.40 1.99
Income 78.24 83.24 + 0.66 4.11
European 58.87 62.63† + 0.18 0.87
Recovery 135.00 143.70 + 1.50 1.80

CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD
78-80 Cornhill, London EC3V 3NJ 071 283 9494
Equity Dist 825.50 839.40† ... 3.60

CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD
5 Rayleigh Rd, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex
0277 690 370
Fellowship Tst 72.38 77.00 + 0.66 1.59
Income 247.70 263.60 + 1.80 3.20
Smaller Cos 137.90 146.80 + 0.20 0.92
Inv Portfolio 79.67 84.76 + 0.71 1.77
High Income Port 70.94 75.36 + 0.49 3.38

DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD
155 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3XS
071 430 0177
Euro Small Cos 1432.1 1461.0† + 32 ..
Japan Small Cos 1047.5 1068.4† -43.60 ..
UK Small Cos 1677.7 1750.6 +36.80 ..
US Small Cos 1591.1 1625.3† - 2.20 ..

DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS
66 Wilson Street, London EC2A 2BL
071 377 8819
Disc Inc 192.60 202.20† ... 2.96

DUNEDIN UNIT TST MGRS LTD
25, Ravelston Terrace, Edinburgh 031 315 2500
European Gwth 248.20 262.50 - 1.90 1.14
New Asia 235.20 253.90 - 1.50 0.31
Japan Growth 112.60 119.70 - 0.10 ...
Jap Smllr Cos 461.30 499.80 - 0.30 ...
Nth Amer 243.00 257.50 ... 0.95
Shltrd Asia Pac Mkt 133.50 141.50 + 0.80 0.44
UK Inc & Grth 227.00 242.20 + 2.10 3.34

EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD
Bath Road, Cheltenham GL53 7LQ 0242 577 555
UK Balanced Inc 142.60 151.70† + 1.00 2.27
UK High Inc Inc 158.80 168.90† + 1.50 4.72
UK Pref & F I Inc 64.79 68.70† + 0.06 8.41
Environmntl Opps 82.60 87.97 + 0.85 1.40

EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD
97 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh
0345 090 526
American 119.70 127.20† - 0.10 0.39
Convertibles 24.00 25.60† + 0.13 7.66
Equity Income 140.10 148.90† + 1.40 3.36
EuroFund 45.92 48.99 + 0.25 0.82
Financial 51.18 54.59 + 0.32 2.24
Growth & Inc 247.20 262.70 + 2.50 2.85
High Dist 165.90 176.20† + 1.80 4.26
International 384.20 408.30 + 3.20 0.24
Intl Income 98.73 105.40 - 0.10 2.47
Latin American 45.06 47.98 + 0.08 0.26
Pacific 89.47 95.06 + 0.89 0.32
Preference Share 25.94 27.56 + 0.06 5.62
Tokyo 190.80 202.50 ... ...
UK Smaller Cos 231.50 246.00 + 2.10 0.96

ELCON LTD
Central Ct, Knoll Rise, Orpington BR6 0JA
0689 70538
Elcon Trust 215.90 230.60 ... ...

ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD
41 Harrington Gardens, London SW7 4JU
071 373 7261
Endurance Fd 203.60 216.60 + 3.90 0.43

EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
Walton St, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 7QN
0296 431 480
European 76.80 80.84 + 0.37 1.63
Far Eastern 320.95 337.84 + 3.37 1.27
High Income 139.28 146.61† + 1.51 4.20
Intl Growth 118.54 124.78 - 0.10 1.00
North American 115.62 121.70 + 0.06 1.04
Pelican 124.08 130.61 + 1.76 2.83
Smaller Cos 71.85 75.63† + 0.22 1.97
Special Sits 90.94 95.73 + 1.01 1.80
Tst of Inv Tsts 189.40 199.37 + 3.40 1.94

EVERMORE FUND MGMT LTD
1 White Hart Yard, London Bridge SE1
071 407 5966
Smaller Cos Inc 200.29 208.64 + 0.61 1.73
Smaller Cos Acc 346.75 361.20 + 1.04 1.73
Recovery 48.92 50.96† + 0.19 2.24

EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD
23 Cathedral Yard, Exeter EX1 1HB
0392 412 144
Balanced 121.96 129.58† - 0.10 4.83
Capital Growth 83.37 88.84 + 1.68 ...
Fd of Inv Tsts 46.31 49.40 + 0.48 0.23
High Income 53.49 53.86 + 0.39 8.23
Warrant 61.83 68.30 + 0.80 ...
Zero Preference 37.76 40.07† + 0.04 ...

FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD
16 West Street, Brighton BN1 2RE 0273 220 707
Family Asset Tst 73.41 78.09 ... 2.60
Family Income Tst 51.00 54.33 ... 6.70
Family Trust 79.68 84.76 ... 1.70
United Charities 249.80 264.40 ... 3.90

FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD
130 Tonbridge Rd, Tonbridge TN11 9DZ
Callfree: Private Clients 0800 414 161
Broker Dealings: 0800 414 181
Cash Fund
Cash Fund 100.00 100.00 ... 5.10
Stabiliser Growth Range
Controlled Risk UK 25.24 26.58 ... 3.09
-do- Europe 24.77 26.09 - 0.08 4.88
-do- America 23.64 24.91 - 0.14 0.51
-do- Acc Japan 27.69 29.21 ... 0.75
Bond Funds
Gilt & Fxd Int 32.05 32.32† - 0.06 6.16
Intl Bond 32.86 34.25 - 0.06 4.85
Income Funds
High Income 28.57 30.06† + 0.13 4.74
Income Plus 124.50 132.40† + 0.90 3.46
Amer Eq Inc 47.79 50.70 - 0.01 0.98
European Income 43.38 46.15 - 0.06 2.48
Far East Inc 66.66 71.29† - 0.38 2.29
Global Convertible 24.51 26.15† + 0.08 2.21
Equity Funds
ASEAN 73.20 78.08 + 1.38 ...
American 229.80 243.60 - 0.30 ...
Amer Spec Sits 107.40 114.60 - 0.30 ...
Japan Smaller Cos 36.35 38.78 - 0.12 ...
European 152.00 162.30 + 0.50 ...
European Opps 57.60 61.25 + 0.15 ...
UK Growth 87.26 92.79 + 0.81 ...
Growth & Inc 158.20 168.30 + 1.20 2.71
Intl PEP 35.39 37.63 + 0.23 ...
Japan Spec Sits 79.21 84.70 + 0.04 ...
Japan 168.90 180.60 + 0.10 ...
Managed Intl 256.40 273.90 + 0.60 ...
Moneybuilder 50.28 53.64 + 0.22 ...
Recovery 41.25 43.87 + 0.21 ...
South E Asia 171.60 183.10 + 0.60 ...
Special Sits 489.60 520.60 + 3.10 ...
Specialist Funds
UK Index 115.30 121.90 + 0.80 3.03
UK Reverse Index 71.25 75.23 - 0.54 4.98
Europe Index 118.30 124.60 + 0.30 1.44
-do- Reverse Index 66.93 71.12 - 0.85 8.15
America Index 102.30 107.20 - 0.20 0.96
-do- Reverse Index 92.82 97.91 - 1.37 0.98
Japan Index 115.00 121.00 ... 1.03
-do- Reverse Index 102.80 108.50 - 0.20 1.45
Cash Accum Units 103.83 103.83 + 0.01 5.10

FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD
20 Finsbury St, Lond EC2Y 9AQ 071 814 2700
Balanced 141.40 144.40 ... 2.09
Inc Pfolio 91.70 93.50† + 0.98 3.41
Cap Pfolio 152.90 155.70† + 1.20 0.57
General Opps 131.30 133.10 ... 1.22
Growth Inc 32.49 33.11† + 0.36 2.06
Private Portfolio 425.80 432.80 ... 1.41

FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT
Admin. PO Box 2001, Brentwood, Essex CM13 1XR Enq: 071 454 1434 Dlg: 0277 261 010
Hypo Foreign & Colonial
European 111.80 118.10 + 0.40 0.33
Far Eastern 167.60 179.90 + 0.70 ...
High Income 24.03 25.57† + 0.16 10.00
Oseas Income 99.30 106.00† - 0.30 2.90
UK Growth 114.00 121.90 + 1.30 0.77
UK Income 111.90 119.90† + 1.50 5.01
US Smaller Cos 280.00 299.50 - 1.90 ...

FOSTER & BRAITHWAITE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD
1 White Hart Yard, London SE1 1NX
071 407 5966
High Inc Eqty 51.55 54.84† + 0.38 3.79
-do- Inv Tst Inc 77.83 82.80 + 0.75 3.74
Intl Growth 71.38 75.94† ... 1.19
Investment Trust 90.12 95.87 + 1.21 0.23
UK Smaller Cos 78.93 83.97 + 2.11 1.31

FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD
155 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3FT
071 374 4100
American Growth 53.82 57.50 - 0.35 ...
(Accum Units) 53.82 57.50 - 0.35 ...
Amer Smlr Cos 472.50 505.20 - 2.90 ...
(Accum Units) 482.70 516.20 - 2.80 ...
Capital Tst 306.40 325.90 + 2.60 1.81
(Accum Units) 431.20 458.60 + 3.60 1.81
Conv Smllr Cos 55.54 59.49 + 0.17 0.66
(Accum Units) 58.06 62.19 + 0.18 0.66
Convertible 135.30 143.90 + 0.90 5.26
(Accum Units) 262.20 278.90 + 1.80 5.26
Emerging Markets 82.34 87.97† + 0.08 ...
(Accum Units) 82.44 88.07† + 0.08 ...
European 115.70 123.20 + 0.70 0.32
(Accum Units) 120.60 128.60 + 0.80 0.32
Extra Income 335.20 356.50 + 2.00 3.39
(Accum Units) 480.10 510.60 + 2.90 3.39
Financial 125.40 134.70 ... 0.34
(Accum Units) 131.20 141.00 ... 0.34
Gilt Trust 72.83 75.09 + 0.10 5.34
(Accum Units) 96.43 99.42 + 0.14 5.34
Health Fund Inc 134.10 143.20 + 0.20 ...
(Accum Units) 134.10 143.20 + 0.20 ...
Income & Growth 202.50 215.40† + 2.20 3.27
(Accum Units) 293.40 312.00† + 3.10 3.27
Intl Growth 357.10 383.30 + 1.50 ...
(Accum Units) 396.60 425.70 + 1.80 ...
Japan & Gen 177.00 189.60 + 0.80 ...
(Accum Units) 178.80 191.50 + 0.80 ...
Managed Port Inc 104.70 110.20 + 0.50 0.69
(Accum Units) 110.10 115.80 + 0.50 0.69
Monthly Income 168.20 178.90 + 1.30 3.56
Quarterly Income 56.88 60.50 + 0.36 5.11
(Accum Units) 58.18 61.88 + 0.38 5.11
Recovery 327.10 349.80 + 0.40 0.21
(Accum Units) 384.20 410.90 + 0.40 0.21
UK Growth 54.05 57.68 + 0.58 2.41
(Accum Units) 54.05 57.68 + 0.58 2.41

FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS
Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts
Dealing: 0722 411 411 Admin: 0722 411 622
FP Equity Dist 403.66 429.43† + 3.86 2.26
-do- Accum 832.73 885.88† + 7.97 2.26
FP Euro Gth Dist 129.57 137.84 + 1.01 0.67
-do- Accum 134.56 143.15 + 1.04 0.67
FP Fixed Int Dist 147.34 155.85† + 0.12 5.30
-do- Accum 255.20 269.94 + 0.20 5.30
FP Intl Gth Dist 90.38 96.15† + 0.57 0.61
-do- Accum 93.98 99.98† + 0.60 0.61
FP Nth Amer Dist 188.85 200.05 - 0.21 0.63
-do- Accum 205.82 218.03 - 0.22 0.63
FP Pac Basin Dist 308.31 327.99 - 2.33 0.01
-do- Accum 314.19 334.25 - 2.37 0.01
Stewardship Dist 341.26 363.04† + 2.56 1.69
-do- Accum 409.61 435.76† + 3.08 1.69
Stwrdshp Inc Dist 73.26 77.94† + 0.66 3.11
-do- Accum 91.82 97.68† + 0.82 3.11
N Am Stshp Dist 99.19 105.52 - 0.89 0.41
-do- Accum 104.92 111.62 - 0.95 0.41

GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
PO Box 237, York YO1 1LA 0345 581 104/7
GANDA 245.70 259.80† + 1.60 1.89
Cash 49.53 50.27† ... 4.35
Growth Portfolio 86.89 92.10 + 0.65 0.33
Income Portfolio 72.27 76.43† + 0.30 3.26

GT UNIT MANAGERS LTD
Alban Gate, 14th Floor, 125 London Wall, London EC2Y 5AS 071 710 4567
Dealing: 071 626 9431
Amer Spec Sits 149.80 160.30 ... ...
European 502.40 534.70 + 3.40 1.35
Far East & Gen 262.80 281.10† + 0.10 ...
Germany 124.70 132.50 + 1.20 ...
Global Assets Inc 81.41 85.98 ... 0.88
Income Inc 149.60 160.00 + 0.70 4.93
International 329.40 352.20 + 2.50 0.67
Intl Income 86.85 92.38† + 0.53 3.82
Japan & General 395.80 421.10 - 0.80 ...
Korean Securities 63.71 67.97 - 0.85 0.19
Smllr Cos Div Inc 48.33 51.69 + 0.19 5.62
UK Capital (Inc) 178.20 190.60 + 0.70 1.84
UK Spec Sits 86.59 92.61 + 0.53 0.36
US & General 130.50 138.90 + 0.20 ..
Wwide Spec Sits 155.30 166.20 - 0.20 0.10

GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS
Gartmore House, 16-18 Monument St, London EC3R 8AJ 071 782 2000 Digs only: 0277 264 421
Investor Services: Freephone 0800 289 336
UK Growth Funds
British Growth 52.74 56.45 + 0.31 1.88
Cash Trust 131.57 131.57† + 0.01 5.72
Practical Inv Inc 117.95 126.15 + 0.52 3.50
UK Index 153.33 155.96 + 1.50 2.77
UK Smaller Cos 109.78 117.41 + 0.71 1.46
Income Funds
Preference Share 28.31 30.28 + 0.02 8.36
High Income 36.71 39.26† + 0.25 4.43
UK Equity Income 149.64 160.04 + 1.48 3.34
Global Bond 30.65 31.75† - 0.06 4.60
International Funds
Frontier Markets 63.94 68.39 + 0.35 ..
Global Inc & Gth 137.27 146.24 + 0.60 1.50
Gold & Intl Res 113.76 121.67 - 1.87 0.57
Global Utilities 137.51 146.77† + 0.79 0.67
Overseas Funds
American 137.30 146.78 - 0.02 0.50
European 96.20 101.81 + 0.62 0.88
Euro Sel Opps 122.58 130.18 + 1.02 0.22
Amer Emerging 95.82 102.48† - 0.11 ...
Hong Kong 179.84 192.34 - 1.31 0.86
Japan 212.04 225.60 + 0.62 ...
Pacific Growth 246.01 263.11 + 3.74 ..
Gartmore Pensions Strategy Funds
Managed Equity 214.76 214.76 + 1.21 1.76
Long Term Bal 235.31 235.31 + 1.47 2.68
Med Term Bal 200.54 200.54 + 0.92 2.42
UK Equity 239.95 239.95 + 1.85 1.41
UK Emerging Cos 135.04 135.04 + 0.85 1.99
American 231.00 231.00 + 0.11 1.27
Japan 120.90 120.80 + 0.35 ..
European 244.90 244.90 + 0.48 1.01
Index Linked Gilt 177.62 177.62† + 0.19 2.89
Fixed Interest 171.66 171.66† + 0.11 6.04
Amer Emerging 248.02 248.02 + 0.16 ..
Pacific 264.80 264.80† + 0.59 0.54
Emerging Mkts 190.50 190.50 + 0.40 ..
Index Strat Japan 137.06 137.06 .. 0.25
-do- Pacific Rim 216.55 216.55 .. 1.23
-do- Cont Europe 144.32 144.32 .. 1.67
Index Strat USA 130.57 130.57 .. 2.13
Gartmore Personal Pension Funds
Managed Equity 100.99 102.01 + 0.94 ..
Med Term Bal 94.60 100.64 + 0.46 ..
Long Term Bal 105.07 111.77 + 0.62 ...
UK Equity 109.38 116.37 + 1.14 ..
UK Emerging Cos 62.41 66.39 + 0.28 ..
American 106.94 113.77 - 0.30 ..
Japan 60.34 64.19 + 0.27 ..
European 99.75 106.12 + 0.61 ..
Fixed Interest 85.89 91.33 + 0.20 ..
Index Linked Gilt 78.40 83.40 - 0.09 ..
Deposit 76.29 81.15 + 0.01 ..
Broker Unit Trusts
Berkeley Int Gth 125.80 132.52† + 0.47 ..
Berkeley Income 115.41 121.49† + 0.72 2.10
BWH Intl 137.58 144.92† + 0.43 0.50
Brdliff Gth Port Inc 61.25 64.69† + 0.05 2.60
-do- Inc Port Inc 60.17 63.60 + 0.06 3.75
-do- Wwide Port 52.42 55.32 - 0.05 1.00
Shaw Utilities 60.33 63.67† + 1.06 3.35

GLENFRIARS UNIT TST MGRS LTD
22 Suffolk St, London SW1Y 4HS 071 930 7533
Inv Opportunities 139.30 147.10† .. ..
Higher Income 125.73 132.50 .. 3.08

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& Intl Inc 553.71 590.07 + 6.46 0.11
European Inc 142.60 151.70 + 3.16 1.97
Amalgam Inc 144.77 152.84 + 2.17 0.37
N America Inc 116.04 126.21 + 5.07 ..
Far East Inc 322.60 348.58 .. 0.22
UK Divid Inc 162.57 172.95 + 7.77 1.32

GOVETT (JOHN) UNIT MGMT LTD
Shackleton House, 4 Battle Bridge Lane, London SE1 071 378 7979 Dealing: 071 407 7588
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UK Small Cos 49.16 52.88 + 2.14 1.10
British Growth 57.77 60.94 + 0.54 2.14
American Gwth 150.35 160.77 - 1.27 ..
Japan Gwth 75.84 81.08 + 0.23 ..
Greater China 208.62 223.13 + 0.11 0.95
Pacific Strategy 176.76 189.05 + 1.52 0.15
European Gwth 79.24 84.75 + 1.09 0.52
Intl Growth 152.92 162.59† + 0.28 0.24
US Index (£) 13.675 13.569 -0.009 1.90
FT-SE Mid 250 Ind 77.52 81.98 + 0.47 2.15
Monthly Income 47.67 50.62† + 0.26 10.00
MIS Unit Trust Dealing: 071 365 0003
UK Index (£) 12.344 12.969 +0.126 4.40
Euro Index (£) 12.905 13.504 +0.047 4.50
Japan Index (£) 9.7066 10.159 -0.071 1.85
US Index (£) 14.354 15.017 -0.017 1.50
Cash (£) 9.5543 9.6021 +0.000 5.70
UK Bear (£) 7.1209 7.4463 -0.098 5.40
European Bear (£) 7.4187 9.1817 -0.025 4.50
Japan Bear (£) 13.176 13.791 -0.098 1.85
US Bear (£) 9.0967 9.4749 -0.165 1.50
Dollar Bull (£) 15.667 16.292 -0.145 1.57
Dollar Bear (£) 7.1217 7.4461 -0.057 4.60
Gilt Bull (£) 12.100 12.648 -0.023 4.40
Gilt Bear (£) 6.9166 7.2207 -0.021 4.40
Dollar Cash (£) 10.541 10.594 -0.045 1.90
Grd UK Index (£) 12.880 13.367 -0.190 4.40

GRANVILLE UNIT TST MGMT LTD
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Small Cos 90.93 96.73 + 4.14 1.34
Bridge Income 281.19 299.14† + 5.04 4.90

GUARDIAN ROYAL EX UT MGRS LTD
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071 538 9668
Cash 133.70 133.70 ... 3.79
European 434.10 463.70† + 3.60 0.12
Gilt & Fixed 141.40 150.10 + 0.30 4.52
Growth Equity 341.20 364.50† + 3.40 1.83
Income Trust 130.60 139.50† + 1.40 2.88
International 180.20 192.60 + 0.40 ...
Japan Trust 115.70 123.60 + 0.40 ...
Nth American 270.50 288.90 - 0.20 0.26
Pacific 622.00 664.50 + 6.10 ...
Guardhill 495.00 528.80 + 5.30 1.94

GUINNESS FLIGHT UT MGRS LTD
5 Gainsford Street, London SE1 2NE
071 522 2129
EMU Trust 115.77 120.19† + 0.23 7.68
Global High Inc 119.85 124.43 - 0.22 7.85
Prem Fixed Int 120.55 125.16 - 0.02 7.53
Eqty & Bond Inc 107.52 114.32 + 0.19 4.86
European Growth 94.15 100.10 + 0.62 0.18
Intl PEP Trust 58.88 62.60 + 0.17 1.02
High Income 121.32 129.03† + 0.29 3.19
Recovery 352.80 375.10† + 0.20 1.40
St Vinc High Inc 134.95 136.97 + 0.07 6.69
Tmp Bar Emer Co 222.40 236.50† + 0.80 1.35
Tmp Br Sm Co In 331.40 337.30 + 1.10 1.88

HALIFAX STANDARD TST MGT LTD
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Global Advtg Inc 40.16 42.57 + 0.20 1.28
Income Advtg Inc 34.05 36.10† + 0.10 3.29

HAMBROS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
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Enquiries: 0277 227 300 Dealing: 0277 690 390
Model Pfolio 203.90 216.30† + 1.30 2.35
Smaller Cos 32.50 34.57 + 0.14 1.59

HENDERSON UNIT TST MGMT LTD
PO Box 2157, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4ET
Enquiries: 0277 263 280 Dealing: 0277 234 772
UK Funds
Special Sits 280.77 300.42 + 3.09 1.43
Best of British 64.95 69.43† + 0.68 2.04
UK Smaller Cos 117.38 126.18 + 0.99 1.09
High Income Funds
Income & Growth 276.15 294.09† + 2.70 2.92
High Income 328.87 351.56 + 2.61 3.63
Extra Income 299.80 319.16† + 2.01 3.96
Pref & Gilt 50.48 54.26 + 0.06 7.48
International
International 266.09 284.42 + 0.59 0.24
Global Bond 59.92 63.74† + 0.23 6.13
Family of Funds 80.77 86.31 + 0.09 0.30
Global Tech 141.05 150.85† - 1.04 ...
Overseas Funds
Asian Enterprise 195.35 208.90 + 1.45 ...
European 450.65 477.28 - 3.54 0.28
European Income 83.69 88.50 + 0.18 2.29
Euro Smlr Cos 138.63 147.47 + 0.19 0.28
Eur Sp Sits 58.21 62.01 + 0.22 0.19
Japan Trust 198.46 211.44 - 0.21 ...
Japan Special Sits 226.24 240.68 + 0.02 ...
Pacific Smlr Cos 277.72 295.44 - 1.89 0.06
North American 234.51 249.56 - 0.11 ...
American Smaller 104.49 111.69 - 0.84 ...
Henderson TR Pension Portfolio
American Growth 55.51 58.84 - 0.44 ...
Eur Sp Sits 49.97 52.96 + 0.16 ...
General Growth 43.07 45.65 + 0.44 ...
Global Tech 55.20 58.51 - 0.40 ...
Income Growth 41.36 44.56 + 0.41 ...
Japan Growth 24.27 25.72 - 0.02 ...
Overseas Growth 38.84 41.17 + 0.07 ...
Smaller Cos 20.65 21.88 + 0.07 ...
Special Opps 27.20 28.83 + 0.23 ...
Sterling Liquidity ... ...
Wwide Sp Sits 48.49 51.39 + 0.07 ...

HILL SAMUEL UNIT TST MGRS
NLA Tower, Addiscombe Road, Croydon
081 686 4355
British 102.10 109.10 + 0.10 1.81
Capital 177.40 189.70 + 1.20 1.60
Dollar 332.60 355.70 - 0.30 0.01
European 236.90 253.30 + 1.50 0.43
Far East 343.70 367.50† + 2.80 0.22
Financial 861.70 921.60 + 5.00 1.31
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc 29.33 30.47 + 0.15 6.76
High Yield 115.30 123.20† + 0.90 3.98
Income & Growth 156.00 166.80 + 1.30 2.91
International 243.20 260.10 - 0.50 0.06
Japanese General 177.60 189.90† + 0.30 ...
Japan Tech 65.59 70.14 + 0.16 ...
Nat Resources 71.78 76.77 - 1.19 0.47
Portfolio 74.59 79.77 - 0.12 1.74
Security 338.60 362.10 + 0.50 1.77
Smaller Cos 124.90 133.50 + 1.00 1.32
Special Sits 155.00 165.70 + 1.50 1.35
UK Emerging Cos 81.89 87.58 + 0.60 0.31
US Smaller Cos 71.75 76.73 - 1.03 ...

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James Capel Unit Trusts
Dlg: 071 955 5055 Enq: 0800 181 890
Index Funds
American Index 201.70 214.90 - 0.30 1.19
Eurotrack 100 156.70 166.30 + 0.80 0.94
Footsie Fund 56.09 59.32 + 0.61 2.27
Japan Index 73.05 77.88 + 0.17 0.14
Tiger Index 226.40 241.60 + 2.02 0.41
Trixie Index 112.90 120.50 - 0.90 1.82
UK Index 145.00 154.70 + 1.50 2.57
Active Funds
American Growth 467.00 498.40 - 1.50 0.16
Capital 616.20 657.60 + 6.50 2.04
European Growth 103.90 110.40† + 0.40 0.29
Far East Growth 59.00 62.97† + 0.55 ...
Global Bond 24.91 26.26 + 0.10 5.40
Hong Kong Gwth 131.60 140.40 + 0.30 0.48
Income 593.50 633.40 + 5.20 3.52
Intl Growth 77.58 82.61 + 0.12 0.10
Japan Growth 252.80 269.80 + 0.10 ...
Japan Smllr Cos 32.42 34.51 + 0.07 ...
Spore & Mlysn Gth 85.81 91.58 + 2.75 ...
Midland Unit Trusts
Dealing 0742 529200
Enquiries 0742 529076
Balanced 62.05 66.36 + 0.38 2.51
(Accum Units) 63.80 68.23 + 0.39 2.51
British Tst 88.29 94.43 + 0.79 1.79
(Accum Units) 99.86 106.80 + 0.80 1.79
Extra High Inc 77.10 82.46 + 0.28 5.46
(Accum Units) 139.40 149.00 + 0.70 5.46
Gilt & Fxd Int 60.99 63.49† + 0.04 6.08
(Accum Units) 167.10 174.00† + 0.10 6.08
High Yield 246.80 264.00 + 4.20 4.39
(Accum Units) 592.50 633.60 +10.10 4.39
Income 319.20 341.40 + 5.70 2.52
(Accum Units) 674.80 721.70 + 12 2.52
Japan Growth 318.20 340.20 + 0.60 ...
(Accum Units) 335.80 359.10 + 0.60 ...
Mandarin Tst 135.20 144.60 + 1.30 0.61
(Accum Units) 141.40 151.20 + 1.40 0.61
Money Market UT 49.44 49.44 + 0.01 4.62
(Accum Units) 74.29 74.29 + 0.02 4.62
North American 180.00 192.50† - 0.30 0.43
(Accum Units) 227.50 243.30† - 0.40 0.43
Midland Personal Pension Unit Trust
British 103.10 109.70 + 0.90 1.79
European Growth 99.92 106.30 + 0.90 0.02
Gilt & Fixed 89.63 95.13 + 0.06 5.83
Income 89.96 95.70 + 0.83 2.76
Japan Growth 47.60 50.64 + 0.09 ..
Managed 68.70 73.09 + 0.42 2.40
Money Market 82.39 87.34 + 0.03 4.60
North American 87.06 92.62 - 0.33 0.48
Midland FSAVCS Unit Trust
British 93.75 99.73 + 0.83 1.77
European Growth 94.00 100.00 + 0.77 0.01
Gilt & Fixed Int 85.42 90.67 + 0.06 5.80
Income 88.40 94.04 + 0.81 2.73
Japan Growth 47.54 50.57 + 0.08 ...
Managed 65.73 69.93 + 0.39 2.38
Money Market 76.16 80.73 + 0.02 4.35
North American 79.35 84.41 - 0.30 0.58
Midland Executive Pension Unit Trust
British 94.19 100.20 + 0.91 1.75
European Growth 91.82 97.68 + 0.81 ...
Gilt & Fixed Int 79.32 84.19 + 0.05 5.86
Income 87.96 93.57 + 0.80 2.73
Japan Growth 48.65 51.76 + 0.09 ..
Managed 69.11 73.52 + 0.41 2.36
Money Market 71.66 75.96 + 0.02 4.58
North American 87.97 93.58 - 0.34 0.45

INVESCO FUND MANAGERS LTD
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071 626 3434 Dealing: 0800 010 733
UK Specialist Trusts
Investment Tst 73.64 78.24† - 1.01 0.54
Smaller Cos 29.25 31.27 + 0.30 1.61
Special Features 32.63 34.66 + 0.45 1.44
(Accum Units) 38.90 41.33 + 0.56 1.44
General Funds
Assets & Earnings 81.37 86.45 + 0.98 1.82
Accum Units 97.11 103.10 + 1.10 1.82
General Equities 78.00 82.87 + 0.75 2.57
Great British Cos 54.38 58.15 + 0.52 1.86
Managed Invest 99.60 106.20 + 0.50 1.00
PEP Managed 72.92 77.87† + 0.49 2.00
Rupert Child Tst 86.83 92.58 + 0.57 1.80
UK Growth 62.43 66.76† + 0.47 1.70
High Income Funds
Cashbox (Dist) 50.65 50.65 + 0.01 4.08
Cashbox (Acc) 57.11 57.11 + 0.01 4.08
Extra Income 93.59 99.94 + 0.52 4.35
Gilt 30.50 32.27 + 0.05 5.72
Income & Growth 44.26 47.19 + 0.24 3.20
Mimstar Gilt & FI 82.75 88.59 .. 7.11
Preference Shares 19.36 20.57† + 0.05 6.19
UK Income 363.50 388.10 + 2.70 2.87
Sector Specialist Funds
Fin Securities 70.59 75.00† + 0.30 0.77
Property Shares 85.97 90.29 + 0.36 1.27
Overseas Growth Funds
American Growth 50.79 53.97 - 0.13 0.85
US Smaller Cos 115.21 122.40 - 0.50 ..
(Accum Units) 116.40 123.60 - 0.70 ..
Europe Perf 141.10 149.40 + 1.20 ..
(Accum Units) 145.90 154.90 + 1.20 ..
Euro Smaller Cos 26.47 28.08 + 0.29 ..
French Growth 79.10 83.84 + 0.31 0.01
Accum Units 84.50 89.57 + 0.34 0.01
H Kong & China 107.80 114.50 - 0.10 0.40
Intl Growth 56.67 60.21 + 0.14 0.25
Accum Units 56.95 60.50 + 0.13 0.25
Japan Perf 30.66 32.54 + 0.06 ...
Accum Units 30.66 32.54 + 0.06 ..
Japan Smaller Cos 36.24 38.48 + 0.07 ..
Singapore ASEAN 124.90 132.60 + 0.90 ..
Accum Units 125.80 133.60 + 1.00 ..
SE Asia 354.10 376.20 + 3.80 0.03
Overseas Income Funds
Global Income 94.22 100.40† .. 2.02
Intl Bond 60.54 61.36 + 0.12 5.22

JUPITER MERLIN UT MGRS LTD
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American Cap 175.40 186.70 - 2.00 ..
Income 147.79 157.22 + 1.28 4.04
Res & General 151.50 161.10 - 0.80 ..
UK Growth 52.47 56.35 + 0.77 1.71
International 87.69 93.03 + 0.53 0.93
Ecology 83.02 88.32 + 0.90 0.50
European 111.52 118.29 + 1.92 ..
Far Eastern 382.80 407.20 + 3.30 ..

KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS
10 Fenchurch Street, London EC3
Dealers: 071 956 7354 Admin: 071 956 6600
Income Trusts
Extra Income 59.25 61.01† - 0.33 6.19
(Accum Units) 82.50 87.77 - 0.46 6.19
Gilt Yield 128.80 135.30† - 0.03 6.53
(Accum Units) 370.20 397.20 - 0.90 6.53
Global Income 234.10 249.00† + 1.50 3.46
(Accum Units) 516.50 549.50 + 3.51 3.46
High Yield 155.20 165.10 - 0.20 5.16
(Accum Units) 442.30 470.50 - 0.60 5.16
Small Cos Dis 55.96 59.53† - 0.37 3.32
(Accum Units) 69.93 74.30 + 0.45 3.32
Capital Growth Trusts
Amer Smllr Cos 94.30 100.40 - 0.40 ..
(Accum Units) 97.67 103.90 - 0.40 ..
North American 77.48 82.43 - 0.10 0.30
(Accum Units) 94.96 101.00† - 0.10 0.30
European Special 89.10 94.85 + 0.31 1.32
(Accum Units) 93.54 99.51 + 0.32 1.32
European 151.50 161.20† + 0.80 1.22
(Accum Units) 198.30 211.00 + 1.00 1.22
General 297.80 316.80 + 2.90 2.82
(Accum Units) 489.20 520.40 + 4.80 2.82
Japan 388.30 411.00 - 0.70 ...
(Accum Units) 390.60 415.50 - 0.80 ...
Japanese Special 221.60 235.70 - 0.50 ...
(Accum Units) 222.70 236.90 - 0.40 ...
Master Accum 248.00 263.80 + 1.70 0.82
Pacific 349.20 371.50 + 4.40 0.39
(Accum Units) 409.60 435.70 + 5.20 0.39
Smaller Cos 109.20 116.20† + 0.85 1.00
(Accum Units) 148.00 157.40 + 1.00 1.00
UK Equity Growth 42.80 45.53 + 0.45 1.54
(Accum Units) 79.65 84.73 + 0.85 1.54

KNIGHT WILLIAMS PRTFOL MGRS
161 New Bond Street, London W1Y 0LA
071 629 1603
High Income (Inc) 57.91 61.60 + 0.42 4.40
Global Growth PEP 60.61 64.47 + 0.24 ...
Inv Trust PEP 50.28 53.48 + 0.41 ...
Higher Risk Invest 55.66 59.21 + 0.19 ...

LAS UNIT TST MGRS LTD
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031 550 5151
European 89.64 95.32 + 1.05 0.763
Extra Income 27.14 28.87 + 0.22 3.34
Far East 31.81 33.34 - 0.20 0.26
Income & Gwth 82.15 87.39 + 0.69 2.48
Intl Growth 59.12 62.89 + 0.42 0.53
Japan 61.57 65.50 + 0.27 ...
Maximum Dist 101.30 103.30 + 0.50 6.97
Nth Amer Equity 40.61 43.20 - 0.14 0.19
UK Equity 97.85 104.10 + 0.90 2.21

L & C UNIT TST MGMT LTD
Broadwalk Hse, 5 Appold St EC2A 2DA
071 588 2800
Income 652.00 668.30 ... 4.87
Intl & General 434.20 443.10 ... 0.58

LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT
1 White Hart Yard SE1 071 407 5966
Inc & Growth Inc 60.19 64.03 + 0.60 3.90
Smaller Cos 51.74 54.75 + 0.34 0.91

LAURENTIAN UNIT TST MGMT LTD
Laurentian Hse, Barnwood, Gloucester GL4 7RZ Enq: 0452 371 500 Dlg: 0452 371 623
Growth Trust 255.90 272.20† - 2.40 1.78
High Income 116.80 124.30 + 1.20 3.63
International 93.10 99.04 + 0.33 0.22
Recovery Trust 62.96 66.98† + 0.64 1.39
European Trust 78.70 83.72 + 0.55 1.07
Japanese Trust 40.71 43.34 + 0.12 ...
American Trust 78.81 83.84 + 0.06 ...
Managed 66.75 71.01 + 0.06 0.54
Cash 51.40 51.40 + 0.01 4.83

LAZARD UNIT TST MGRS LTD
21 Moorfields, London EC2P 2HT 071 374 0016
UK Cap 370.40 376.30 + 4.10 2.60
UK Inc/Gth 407.90 414.10 + 3.70 3.02
UK Income 288.20 292.80† + 1.40 3.44
UK Sm Cos 237.80 246.60 + 2.20 1.63
Euro Gwth 118.70 119.70 + 1.40 0.32
N Amer Gwth 79.48 80.38 + 0.06 0.11
Jap & Pac Gth 81.45 82.45 + 0.99 ...
Money Mkt 116.75 116.75 ... 2.360

LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD
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Enquiries: 0277 227 300 Dealing: 0277 690 395
Equity Dist 493.60 525.10 + 5.10 2.22
Equity Income 107.20 114.00 + 0.80 3.20
UK Tactical Allocto 59.96 63.67† + 0.60 3.74
European 113.50 120.70 - 0.50 0.89
Far Eastern 238.30 253.50 + 1.20 ...
Fixed Interest 58.68 62.31† + 0.06 6.21
Gilt 101.70 107.80 - 0.10 5.92
Global Growth 78.73 83.76† + 0.37 0.14
Intl Bond 57.70 61.30 - 0.15 4.58
Japanese 67.40 71.70† + 0.15 ...
North American 150.70 160.30 - 0.20 0.29
Pacific Growth 134.30 142.90 + 0.50 0.31
UK Index 66.43 69.06 + 0.68 2.65
UK Recovery 92.62 98.53 + 0.61 1.74
UK Smaller Cos 117.60 125.10† + 0.60 1.11
US Index 59.76 63.07† - 0.33 1.24
European Index 72.63 76.64 + 0.51 1.38
Japan Index 38.03 40.14 + 0.11 ...
Worldwide 85.81 91.29† + 0.42 1.34

LINCOLN NATIONAL
1 Olympic Way, Wembley HA9 0NB
081 902 8876 Dealing: 0800 282 621
Growth 50.89 54.43 + 0.45 3.07
Income 62.70 67.06 + 0.53 3.50
Far East 56.72 60.66 - 0.06 ...
North American 96.63 103.90 ... ...
Global 99.58 106.50 + 0.40 0.64
European 86.54 92.50 + 0.74 0.85
Japan 103.60 110.80 - 0.10 ...
Intl Currency Bd 60.66 64.37 - 0.07 5.91
SE Asia 134.20 143.50 + 1.20 0.66
UK Capital Growth 94.53 101.10 + 0.60 1.84

LLOYDS BK UNIT TST MGRS LTD
PO Box 63, Chatham, Kent ME4 4YB
Helpdesk 0634 834 339 Dealing 0634 834 313
Balanced 359.70 382.70 + 2.80 2.38
-do- Acc 798.50 849.50 + 6.20 2.38
Contl Euro Gth 61.24 64.47 + 0.77 0.71
-do- Acc 65.24 68.68 + 0.83 0.71
Extra Inc 270.80 288.10† + 1.80 3.43
-do- Acc 679.00 722.40 + 4.50 3.43
German Gth 124.90 131.50 + 1.10 ...
-do- Acc 131.00 137.90 + 1.20 ...
Growth Port 554.30 589.70 +13.30 0.06
-do- Acc 559.00 594.70 +13.40 0.06
Income 509.80 542.40 + 4.00 3.18
-do- Acc 1330.0 1415.0 +10.00 3.18
Income Port 531.90 565.90 - 1.20 3.71
-do- Acc 545.70 580.60 - 1.20 3.71
Japan Growth 94.42 100.50 + 0.40 ...
-do- Acc 94.75 100.80 - 0.40 ...
Master Trust 59.98 63.81 + 0.37 0.91
-do- Acc 66.03 70.25 + 0.41 0.91
N American Gen 194.00 206.40 - 1.30 ...
-do- Acc 224.10 238.50 - 1.40 ...
NAm Sm Co Rec 142.70 151.90 - 1.80 ...
-do- Acc 145.60 154.90 - 1.90 ...
Pacific Basin 313.80 338.80 + 8.30 0.23
-do- Acc 336.60 358.10 + 8.80 0.23
Small Cos Rec 336.20 353.90 + 2.10 2.20
-do- Acc 441.60 464.90 + 2.90 2.20
UK Growth 89.80 95.54 + 0.75 1.88
-do- Acc 105.70 112.50 + 0.90 1.88
Worldwide Gth 330.50 351.60 + 2.10 0.25
-do- Acc 487.60 518.80 + 3.20 0.25

LONDON & MANCHESTER TST MGMT
Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS 0392 282 673
American 64.96 69.70† - 0.17 0.30
General 89.99 96.56† + 0.69 2.40
Income 70.63 75.78 + 0.49 4.70
International 64.42 69.12 + 0.22 0.70
Japan 50.37 54.04 + 0.18 ...
Tst of Inv Trusts 71.46 76.67 + 0.91 1.60

M & G SECURITIES
M & G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1FB Cust Svcs/Unit Dlg: 0245 390 390
Amer & General 409.30 432.80 + 0.20 0.71
Amer Recovery 441.60 467.00 - 0.50 0.33
Amer Smllr Cos 126.00 133.20 - 0.80 ...
Australasian 158.90 168.00 - 0.70 1.21
Capital 792.30 837.90 + 6.20 2.09
Charifund 747.80 755.30 + 7.50 4.83
Commodity 358.80 379.40 - 0.10 0.48
Compound Grth 932.30 985.90 + 7.10 2.33
Dividend 41.60 44.00† + 0.50 3.71
Equity Income 338.00 357.40 + 2.80 4.84
Euro & General 482.90 510.70† + 4.30 0.57
Euro Dividend 70.40 74.50 - 0.30 3.44
Extra Yield 444.40 469.90 + 3.40 4.02
Far Eastern 398.10 421.00 - 0.50 0.24
Fund of Inv Tsts 645.70 682.80† + 8.20 1.66
General 62.80 66.40† + 0.50 3.55
Gilt Income 70.49 70.61† + 0.13 6.29
Gold 70.20 74.20 - 1.00 0.46
High Income 29.50 31.20† + 0.30 4.27
Intl Growth 78.00 82.50 + 0.40 0.71
International Inc 105.10 111.10 + 0.10 4.12
Japan & Gen 43.50 46.00† + 0.10 ...
Japan Smlr Cos 144.40 152.70 + 0.30 ...
Managed Income 28.80 30.30† + 0.12 3.70
Midland 60.90 64.40 + 0.40 2.80
Pension Ex 971.20 995.50 +10.20 3.68
Recovery 41.10 43.50† + 0.40 2.24
Second General 70.70 74.80† + 0.40 3.28
Smaller Cos 66.60 70.40 + 0.30 2.80
Treasury 24.98 25.01† ... 5.01
Trustee 43.70 46.20 + 0.40 3.98

MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD
MGM House, Heene Rd, Worthing
Dealing: 0277 261 010 Enq: 0903 204 631
European Growth 78.65 83.66 + 0.61 0.13
High Income 312.90 332.80 + 2.80 3.97
Intl Bond 69.96 73.56† + 0.15 4.99
Intl Equity Growth 69.20 73.61† + 0.42 0.38
N Amer Growth 96.04 102.16 - 0.32 0.70
Special Sits Growth 21.58 22.95 + 0.14 1.83
UK Growth 388.60 413.40 + 3.10 2.34

MW INVESTMENT MANAGERS LTD
46 Court St, Haddington, E Lothian
062 082 5867
Joint Investors 1329.1 1358.4† +16.00 2.30

MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
c/o Baillie Gifford 1 Rutland Ct EH3 8EY
031 222 4242
Maldon General 141.20 145.10† ... 4.00

MANULIFE MANAGEMENT LTD
St George's Way, Stevenage
Dealings: 0438 747 414
Growth Units 199.00 212.80 + 2.00 2.06
Gilt & Fxd Int 198.20 206.40 + 0.10 6.23
Intl Growth 206.80 221.20 - 0.60 0.18
North American 177.00 189.90 - 1.50 0.24
Far East 298.40 319.10 + 5.70 0.25
UK Smaller Cos 159.60 170.70 + 1.70 1.62
European 79.26 84.84 + 1.32 0.24
Japanese Growth 41.69 44.41 + 0.12 ..
Managed Pfolio 69.74 74.58 + 0.51 1.37
High Income 200.70 214.60 + 1.70 3.79

MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD
PO Box 418, Chester X CH99 9QG 0244 680 066
M & S Inv Pfolio 156.00 166.80 + 0.54 1.85
-do- Accum 174.80 187.00 + 0.54 1.85
UK Sel Pfolio 132.70 141.90† + 0.92 2.04
-do- Accum 151.30 161.80† + 0.92 2.04

MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD
57 Victoria Square, Bolton BL1 1LA
0204 364 842
Managed Tst 70.69 75.20 .. 3.14

MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD
Saltire Crt, 20 Castle Terrace, Edinburgh
031 479 4646
Intl Income 77.84 82.63† - 0.42 3.89
European 82.26 87.32 + 0.45 0.63
Income & Growth 81.68 86.71† + 0.95 2.89
Nth American 58.90 62.53 + 0.04 0.07
Far East 173.10 183.80 + 1.90 ..
Charities 124.40 132.10† + 1.30 3.68
Japan 51.47 54.64 + 0.14 ..
Emging Mkts 123.10 131.70 + 0.70 0.13
Intl Growth 109.80 116.60 + 0.60 0.16
UK Growth 85.41 90.67† + 0.91 1.73

MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD
33 King William St EC4R 9AS
Dealing: 071 280 2860
American 200.50 213.10† - 0.60 ..
(Accum Units) 214.30 227.80† - 0.60 ..
American Opps 87.54 93.38 - 0.45 ..
(Accum Units) 88.65 94.56 - 0.45 ..
British Blue Chip 83.37 88.81 + 0.68 2.84
(Accum Units) 100.30 106.70 + 1.00 2.84
Cash 100.80 100.80 ... 5.33
(Accum Units)* 132.30 132.30 ... 5.33
Emerging Mkts 130.00 139.80 + 0.30 ...
European Growth 239.80 254.20 + 3.30 0.61
(Accum Units) 258.10 273.80 - 3.50 0.61
European Income 84.38 89.37† - 0.56 2.53
(Accum Units) 110.50 117.00† - 0.70 2.73
General 534.70 570.30 + 4.10 2.12
(Accum Units) 1024 1092 + 9.00 2.12
Global Bond 135.60 142.80 - 0.10 5.59
(Accum Units) 156.20 164.30 - 0.10 5.59
Gold & General 183.50 197.30 - 2.00 0.48
(Accum Units) 187.60 201.70 - 2.10 0.48
Govt Securities 103.30 106.50† + 0.30 6.68
(Accum Units) 191.30 197.20† + 0.40 6.68
Income 163.30 174.00† + 0.90 3.92
(Accum Units) 244.30 260.40† + 1.50 3.92
International 417.50 466.40† + 0.90 0.60
(Accum Units) 584.30 622.90† + 0.80 0.60
Japan 175.10 185.80 + 0.40 ..
(Accum Units) 179.80 190.70 + 0.40 ..
New Europe 171.30 182.70 - 2.00 1.42
(Accum Units) 174.00 185.60 - 2.00 1.42
Pacific 146.60 156.40 - 0.10 0.55
(Accum Units) 155.90 166.30 + 0.10 0.53
Recovery 320.70 342.10 - 2.00 2.62
(Accum Units) 406.70 433.80 - 2.60 2.62
UK Smaller Cos 57.64 61.48 + 0.14 1.77
(Accum Units) 64.73 69.04 + 0.16 1.77
Portfolio 84.54 89.98 + 0.65 2.52
(Accum Units) 97.03 103.20 + 0.70 2.52

METROPOLITAN UT MGRS LTD
5 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ
0707 662 233
Eurogrowth Plus 113.00 120.21 - 1.41 0.85
Intl Strategy 64.38 68.49† + 0.41 0.67
UK Income Inc 82.49 87.75 + 0.59 5.55

MILLENNIUM FUND MGMT LTD
1 White Hart Yard, London Bridge SE1
071 407 5966
International (US$) 12.32 13.33 ... ...

MORGAN GRENFELL INVEST FDS LTD
20 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 1UT
Dealers: 071 826 0826 Enquiries: 071 826 0123
American Gwth 298.70 317.70 - 0.80 ...
European Gth Inc 354.70 378.80† + 1.30 ...
Intl Gwth 192.70 205.90† + 1.00 ...
UK Equity Inc 176.90 190.10 + 1.50 3.53
UK Ind Trckr Inc 166.40 178.00 + 1.50 2.73
US Eq Ind Trk Inc 199.40 211.30 - 0.20 1.57
Japan Tracker 70.05 74.20† + 0.19 ...
Asian Trader 246.70 268.00† + 2.10 0.35
Managed Inc 146.40 157.40 + 0.50 1.63
Deposit Inc 100.08 100.08† + 0.01 4.40
Europa 157.10 168.20 + 1.00 ...
Genesis 146.30 160.00† + 0.50 ...
High Income 24.55 26.09 + 0.15 10.00

MURRAY JOHNSTONE UT MGMT
7 West Nile St, Glasgow G1 2PX 0345 090 935
Acumen 98.37 100.60 + 0.50 2.08
Acumen Inc 94.69 96.78 + 0.47 2.08
Acumen Reserve 90.71 91.63 + 0.14 6.43
-do- Inc 83.81 84.66 + 0.13 6.43
American Income 175.00 179.70 - 0.70 1.42
Cash Income 49.81 50.32 + 0.01 5.06
Equity Income 104.90 107.90† + 1.00 4.22
European 72.36 73.60 + 0.61 1.13
Smaller Cos 75.13 78.43† + 0.63 1.12
Olympiad 67.95 69.52 + 0.34 0.07
Global Bond 50.32 50.87† + 0.06 5.79
UK Growth 93.80 96.57 + 0.57 1.61
Pacific Growth 127.60 132.00 + 1.40 ...
Japan Growth 91.03 92.71 + 0.19 ...

NFU MUTUAL UNIT MGRS LTD
5 Rayleigh Road, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex
Enquiries: 0277 227 300 Dealing: 0277 261 010
Avon Equity 126.21 134.27 + 1.21 2.68

NM UNIT TRUST MGRS
Enterprise Hse, Isambard Brunel Rd, Portsmouth Enq: 0705 882 695
Dlg: 0705 882 680
NM Managed Portfolio Service
Cap Gth Inc Inc 108.80 115.70 + 0.10 1.75
Open Cap Gth Inc 110.50 117.50 + 0.20 1.96
NM Unit Trusts
American 44.86 47.85† + 0.08 1.15
Australian 320.30 343.50 - 2.60 ...
Conscience 70.65 75.40† + 0.28 1.21
European 198.50 211.10 + 1.70 0.74
Extra Income 81.47 86.94† - 0.08 5.10
Gilt & FI 64.20 67.75 - 0.06 5.63
Gold 59.39 63.86 - 0.06 ...
Income 58.73 62.64† - 0.04 4.51
Intnl 33.08 35.37† + 0.05 0.60
Jap Smaller Cos 307.50 328.00 - 1.80 ...
Sing & Malaysian 281.90 302.30 - 7.90 ...
Smaller Cos 28.54 30.68 + 0.15 0.69
Special Sits 36.93 39.70 - 0.02 1.76
Sterling Deposit 100.90 100.90 ... 4.75
Tokyo 76.12 81.19 - 0.46 ...
UK Equity 181.90 194.00 - 0.10 2.15
US Smaller Cos 108.20 115.70 - 0.40 ...

N&P UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD
35 Fountain St, Manchester M2 2AF
061 237 5322
UK Growth 76.53 81.42 + 0.44 2.22
UK Income 115.90 123.30† + 1.10 3.29
Gilt & Fixed Int 83.79 88.67 + 0.03 5.55
Higher Income 224.80 239.00† + 1.90 4.22
Smaller Cos 79.78 84.88 + 0.41 1.46
International 100.87 107.31 + 0.53 1.71

NATIONAL PROV INV MGRS LTD
48 Gracechurch St EC3P 3HH 071 623 4280
Americas Dist 108.30 115.80† - 0.20 ...
European Dist 102.13 109.23† + 0.34 ...
Far East Dist 178.90 190.90 + 1.80 ...
Global Care Dist 70.79 75.71† + 0.80 1.97
Oseas Dist 997.60 1067.0 + 2.70 0.30
UK Dist 358.50 383.40† + 3.50 2.33
UK Extra Inc Dist 78.61 84.07 + 0.57 3.78
Wwide Dist 101.97 109.05 - 0.06 ...
Wwide Inc Dist 69.74 74.59 + 0.39 2.13

NATIONAL WESTMINSTER UT MGRS
5 Rayleigh Road, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex
Dlg: 0277 690 280 Admin Enq: 0277 690 398
Europe Inc 59.37 62.66 + 0.40 0.41
Fund of Funds Inc 57.59 60.78 + 0.33 0.63
North America Inc 50.10 52.88 - 0.10 0.28
UK Equity Grth Inc 59.78 63.09† + 0.56 1.74
UK General Inc 59.52 62.82 + 0.50 2.01
UK Gilt/Fix Int Inc 53.68 56.52 + 0.03 5.96
UK Income Inc 60.82 64.19† + 0.49 2.48

NEWTON FUND MGRS LTD
71 Queen Victoria St, London EC4V 4DR
Dealer: 0500 440 000 Private client: 0500 550 000 Broker: 0500 660 000
Income 236.60 251.71 + 2.20 3.50
Global 341.42 363.22 + 1.01 2.86
General 192.31 204.59 + 1.21 1.50
Bond 133.90 142.17† - 0.10 7.30
Growth 126.39 134.46 + 1.30 1.72
Intrepid 114.69 119.47 ... 1.70

NORWICH UNION TST MANAGERS
PO Box 124, Surrey Street, Norwich
0603 682 234
Master Trust 124.68 132.64 + 0.72 1.26
UK Equity 145.46 154.74 + 1.18 3.40
UK Equity Income 139.36 148.26† + 1.18 3.30
UK Smaller Cos 119.33 126.95 + 0.78 2.09
UK Equity Growth 133.72 142.25 + 1.00 2.10
UK Index Trckg 145.41 154.69 + 0.66 3.10
Intl Index Trckg 139.95 148.88 + 0.02 1.07
International 233.28 248.17 + 0.87 0.60
European 178.29 189.67 + 0.95 0.32
Pan European 128.54 136.75† + 0.91 1.63
Nth American 160.54 170.79† - 0.70 0.57
N Amer Smlr Cos 175.81 187.03 - 1.13 ...
Japanese 85.13 90.56† - 0.06 ...
Pacific 250.87 266.88† + 2.19 0.08
South East Asian 289.09 307.54 + 3.77 0.15
Intl Bond 139.95 148.88 - 0.05 5.25
Gilt & Convertible 116.32 123.75† + 0.07 8.07
Property 77.99 82.97† ... 6.47

PEARL UNIT TRUSTS LTD
Pearl Centre, Lynch Wd, Peterborough PE2 6FY Dlg: 0800 626 577 Enq: 0733 470 470
Equity 250.30 266.20† + 2.00 2.13
Growth 158.00 166.20 + 1.10 2.30
Income 254.80 271.00 + 1.80 3.06
Intl Equity 247.80 263.60 + 1.60 0.70
UK Income 70.66 75.16 + 0.52 2.53
UK Intl 25 80.40 85.52 + 0.56 1.69
New Europe 72.44 77.06 + 0.58 0.32

PERPETUAL UNIT TST MGMT
48 Hart Street, Henley on Thames 0491 417 000
Intl Gwth 588.78 629.72 + 3.46 0.34
Income 351.10 375.51 + 3.93 3.01
Wwide Recovery 362.70 387.92 + 2.08 0.41
Amer Growth Inc 221.65 237.06 - 0.49 0.01
Intl Emerging Cos 250.06 267.45 + 1.25 0.05
Far Estn Grth Inc 284.33 304.10† + 1.85 0.01
Euro Gwth Inc 135.80 145.25† + 0.03 0.78
UK Growth Inc 89.10 95.30 + 0.88 2.64
High Income 98.28 105.12 + 0.98 4.14
Jap Gwth Inc 196.74 209.52 - 0.87 0.01
PEP Growth 117.72 125.91 + 0.69 1.23
Asian Str Mkts Inc 150.06 160.50 - 5.02 0.01
Amer Smlr Co Inc 132.39 141.60† - 2.97 0.01
Global Bond 64.33 67.75 + 0.19 5.62
UK Smaller Cos Inc 76.22 81.52 + 0.49 1.45

PILGRIM UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
39 Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 6RQ Admin & dealing: Unit Trust Accounting & Mgmt Ltd, 1 White Hart Yard, London SE1 1NX 071 407 5966
American 103.71 110.33† - 0.42 ...
European 66.16 70.38 + 0.29 0.27
Global 66.87 71.14† + 0.29 ...
Pacific 67.02 71.31 + 0.24 0.06
UK Inc & Grth 64.88 69.02 + 0.09 1.97

POINTON YORK UT MGRS
The Crescent, King St, Leicester LE1 6RX
0533 550 540
BRI Director Digs 98.41 104.81 + 0.14 ..

PORTFOLIO TRUST MGRS LTD
1 White Hart Yard, London SE1 1NX
071 407 5966
Portfolio 158.16 161.39 ... 0.66

PREMIUM LIFE UNIT TST MGRS LTD
37 Perrymount Rd, Haywards Heath
0444 458 721
Monthly Income 58.60 62.11 + 0.46 2.16
Growth Income 58.13 61.61 + 0.62 1.55

PRINCIPAL UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
16 South Park, Sevenoaks TN13 1AN
0732 740 700
Principal Tst 137.04 146.75 + 1.28 1.84

PROLIFIC UNIT TST MGRS LTD
Walbrook Hse, 23 Walbrook EC4N 8LD
Enquiries: 071 280 3700 Dealing: 0800 262 443
American Income 97.36 103.60 - 0.50 2.77
Conv & Gilt 122.00 129.80† + 0.60 5.36
European Income 77.06 81.98 + 0.15 2.34
Extra Income 159.90 169.70† + 2.50 3.55
Far East 409.40 435.60 - 1.80 0.22
Global Income 28.33 30.13 + 0.03 4.11
High Income 121.20 129.00 + 2.00 3.30
International 211.80 225.30 + 0.80 0.37
Pref & Fxd Int 46.43 49.39 + 0.06 6.79
Recovery 79.52 84.59 + 0.54 1.74
Special Sits 106.90 113.70† + 0.40 1.49
Technology 321.80 342.40† - 3.40 ..
UK Blue Chip 70.82 75.34 + 0.26 2.58

PROSPERITY UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
1 Sessions Hse Sq, Maidstone ME14 1XX
0622 674 751
General 55.30 58.93† + 0.57 2.58
International 91.46 97.30 - 0.20 0.70
Gilt 28.71 29.60† + 0.03 6.95
Income & Gwth 77.29 82.22† + 0.56 3.75
European 50.46 53.08 + 0.20 1.19
American 54.35 57.82 - 0.05 0.06
Emerging Mkts 102.26 108.79 + 0.46 0.47
UK Smaller Cos 30.02 31.94 + 0.29 1.69
Gilt/Fixed Interest 28.65 30.48† + 0.04 5.24
Global PEP 40.30 42.97 + 0.21 1.46

PROVIDENCE CAPITOL FD MGRS LTD
2 Bartley Way, Hook, Hants RG27 9XA
0256 768 888
European Inc 234.10 251.30 + 0.70 0.74
Japan Inc 95.56 102.10 + 0.30 ...
Nth American Inc 108.30 116.60 - 0.30 0.12
Worldwide Inc 159.80 171.90 + 0.70 0.72
Hong Kong Inc 181.90 196.20 + 1.70 0.82
Swiss Equities Inc 68.14 72.84 + 1.12 0.33
Wwide Bond Inc 66.51 70.66 + 0.15 6.26
Emging Asia Inc 218.00 237.50† + 3.00 0.36
UK Money Mkt Inc 50.27 51.30† ... 5.36
Thailand Inc 159.00 168.10† + 1.70 0.70
Gold Trust Inc 84.41 90.96 - 1.10 0.17
New Zealand Inc 84.70 91.01 - 0.26 0.49
Intl Mngd PEP Inc 65.70 70.87 + 0.46 3.75
Latin Am Cmp Inc 84.43 90.31 + 0.56 0.01
UK All Sh Mkt Inc 61.35 66.01 + 0.66 1.96
Le Fond Francais 70.44 75.74 + 0.31 0.10
Broker Unit Trusts
Global Trustees 76.42 81.73 + 0.01 1.57
Global Portfolio 68.63 73.09 + 1.34 ..
Global Opps 69.34 74.16 + 0.05 0.44
Marsh Global Grth 71.40 76.20 + 0.50 1.81
AAM Global Equity 60.40 64.25 + 0.05 0.74
CAM Brit Gwth Inc 89.60 97.32 + 0.92 0.93
CAM Brit Inc Inc 46.76 50.83 + 0.30 1.97
CAM Intl Recvy Inc 49.83 53.91 + 0.88 0.00
Tenbrg Equity Inc 47.91 52.32 + 0.31 3.61
Hartley Growth 77.63 82.59 + 0.80 1.26
Intl Growth Inc 78.55 84.01 .. 1.54
IPS Pntfolio Inc 85.35 91.28 + 0.10 0.21
St Jms Mn Inc Inc 51.33 53.05† + 0.16 ..
Premier Perfms Inc 71.32 76.25 - 0.11 0.35
Roxborgh Strat Gth 74.60 79.79† - 0.09 0.77
Tech Analysis 109.10 116.10 + 0.40 0.77
Rosebery Growth 47.28 50.20 - 0.41 ..
International Strat 77.78 83.19 + 0.16 ..
UFC Ind-Act Grth 56.53 60.56 + 0.16 ..
Coverdale Topout 53.42 57.48 + 0.26 ..
Prem Equity Inc 99.05 105.50 + 0.70 ...
Lowes Intl Growth 47.16 49.64 - 0.16 ..

PROVIDENT MUTUAL UT MGRS LTD
25-31 Moorgate, London EC2R 6BA
071 588 3903
Equity Gth 162.40 172.80 + 1.20 1.57
European Gth 93.21 96.07 - 0.49 0.56
Income & Gth 139.10 148.00 + 1.40 2.62
Japan Gth 113.00 119.50 + 2.40 ...
Nth Amer Gth 116.10 123.50 + 0.20 ..
Overseas Gth 86.03 91.52 + 0.77 ..

PRUDENTIAL UNIT TRUSTS LTD
51-59 Ilford Hill, Ilford, Essex IG1 2DL
081 478 3377 Client Enq: 071 911 4490 Intermed dlg: 071 911 4314 Pricebank: 0426 925 091
Managed Tst 35.97 38.47 + 0.22 1.43
Cash Haven Inc 101.29 101.79† + 0.01 4.35
Cash Haven Acc 107.44 107.97† + 0.01 4.35
Global Growth 40.30 46.56 + 0.56 0.99
Equity Inc 89.74 95.97† + 2.00 3.58
Equity 750.65 802.83 + 7.66 2.31
European 205.34 219.61† + 0.90 0.80
High Income 96.56 103.27† + 1.19 3.12
Intl Grth 179.61 192.08 - 0.06 1.05
Intl Sm Co 75.80 81.16 + 0.12 0.04
Japanese 179.52 192.00 + 0.53 ...
Nth Amer 157.15 168.07† - 0.33 0.74
Pacific Mkts 111.26 118.99 + 1.05 0.75
Premier Inc 53.65 55.86 - 0.02 5.22
Sm Cos 88.10 94.22 + 0.49 2.00
Spec Sits 114.01 121.93† + 1.25 2.18
UK Growth 126.20 134.97 + 1.30 2.03

RELIANCE UNIT MGRS LTD
Reliance House, Tunbridge Wells, Kent
0892 510 033
British Life 322.80 342.40 + 2.30 2.77
Reliance Inc 170.50 181.30 - 0.10 1.88

ROCK ASSET MGMT (UNIT TRUST) LTD
Bulman House, Regent Centre, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 3NG 091 295 2555
Managed 99.15 105.20 ... 1.88

ROTHSCHILD FUND MANAGEMENT
St Swithin's Lane, London EC4
Dealers: 071 280 5000
FA America (Inc) 521.07 554.66 - 0.31 0.83
FA America (Acc) 607.20 646.35 - 0.36 0.83
FA UK Equity Inc 177.62 189.76† + 2.10 3.00
FA Japan 247.49 263.61 - 1.10 ...
FA Major UK Cos 104.98 111.66† + 0.89 2.00
FA Smllr UK Cos 286.86 310.98 + 1.39 1.10
FA European 302.94 320.48 + 2.89 0.63
FA Amer Smllr Cos 45.76 48.74 - 0.19 ..
FA Asia 59.59 63.89 + 0.48 ..
FA Jap Smllr Cos 46.09 49.11 + 0.12 ..
RAM Personal Pension
UK Major Cos 102.49 107.88 + 0.85 ..
UK Smllr Cos 80.90 85.15 + 0.39 ..
UK Income 101.82 107.17 + 1.16 ..
America 103.83 109.29 - 0.06 ..
Japanese 54.19 57.04 + 0.25 ..
European 95.94 100.98 + 0.90 ..
Gilt 91.70 96.51 + 0.11 ..
Deposit 78.89 83.04 + 0.02 ..
Managed 103.95 109.41 + 0.74 ..
RAM FSAVC Scheme
UK Major Cos 100.06 105.32 + 0.82 ...
UK Smaller Cos 79.25 83.41 + 0.39 ...
UK Income 99.62 104.86 + 1.15 ...
America 101.36 106.69 - 0.05 ...
Japanese 52.90 55.68 + 0.23 ..
European 93.70 98.62 + 0.88 ..
Gilt 90.80 95.56 + 0.13 ...
Deposit 75.51 79.48 + 0.01 ...
Managed 98.12 103.28 + 0.70 ...

ROYAL LIFE FD MGMT LTD
PO Box 34, Peterborough PE2 0UE
Prices: 0733 282 828 Gen Enq: 0733 390 000
Dealing: 0733 393 000
United States 71.03 75.86 - 0.29 0.11
Pacific Basin 80.69 86.64 + 0.38 ...
High Inc Dist 135.20 144.50 + 0.80 4.20
Ryl Life Inc Cnsry 64.07 68.13 + 0.19 3.30
Ryl Life Intl Gwth 65.58 70.05 + 0.21 0.34
Ryl Life Intl Spec 60.27 64.21 + 0.33 ..
UK Emerging Cos 113.50 122.70 + 0.40 1.54
UK Index Trckg 169.50 180.60† - 4.30 2.92
European 117.00 125.70 + 0.90 0.30
Managed 141.00 151.60 + 0.70 0.85

ROYAL LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
Royal Ldn Hse, Colchester CO1 1RA
0206 764 400
American Growth 147.40 156.00 + 0.90 0.37
European Growth 104.50 110.40 + 0.20 0.89
Far East Growth 146.40 155.80 + 1.30 0.14
Japan Growth 134.20 142.70 ... ...
Special Sits 194.50 206.90 + 0.70 1.30
UK Growth 78.73 83.75† + 0.45 1.85
Triton General 231.90 246.80 + 0.80 0.47

ST JAMES'S PLACE UT GROUP LTD
150 St Vincent St, Glasgow G2 5NS
041 307 6500
Far East Inc 195.90 207.30 ... 0.10
Gtr Euro Prog Inc 319.70 338.30 + 0.30 0.24
Growth Inc 122.10 129.20 ... 0.02
International Inc 313.60 331.90 - 0.70 ...
Nth Am & Intl Inc 310.00 328.00 ... 0.47
PEP Prog Inc 209.00 221.20 + 1.00 0.32
UK High Inc Inc 142.20 150.50 ... 3.06

SANWA INTL INVEST SERVICES LTD
City Place Hse, 55 Basinghall St EC2V 5DJ
071 330 0572
American Gwth 64.03 68.12† + 1.00 1.00
Amer Smllr Cos 78.84 83.87† + 0.24 ...
Asian Gwth 128.09 136.27 + 2.07 1.25
European Gwth 67.94 72.28† + 0.39 1.50
Global Bd 63.80 67.37 + 0.13 6.00
Global Eq 66.888 71.15† + 0.43 0.50
Japanese Eq 54.48 57.96† + 0.15 ...
Japan Sm Cos 64.26 68.36 +0.188 ..
UK Gen 56.16 59.76 + 0.20 3.00
UK Gwth 60.10 63.93† + 0.39 2.50

SAVE & PROSPER GROUP
16-22 Western Rd, Romford RM1 3LB
0708 766 966
Amer Inc & Gwth 72.59 77.22 + 0.37 3.40
Amer Smlr Cos 106.80 113.60 + 0.10 ...
Asian Smaller Cos 67.39 71.69 + 0.44 ...
Capital Portfolio 137.60 146.40 + 2.40 1.65
Capital 169.00 179.80† + 1.50 0.96
Cash 121.30 121.30† + 0.10 5.08
China Dragon 77.63 82.59 + 1.08 0.82
Commodity 131.10 139.50 - 1.00 0.56
Eastern Discovery 130.40 138.70 + 2.20 ...
Energy Inds 116.40 123.80 + 0.90 0.31
European Gwth 187.20 199.10† + 1.20 0.66
Euro Inc & Gwth 78.63 83.66 + 0.42 1.85
Euro Smllr Cos 49.86 53.04† + 0.50 0.53
Financial Secs 206.60 219.80† + 1.30 1.06
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc 54.97 58.05 - 0.08 7.32
Gold & Exploration 83.45 88.78 - 1.06 0.29
High Return 240.50 255.80 + 2.00 3.38
High Yield 233.90 248.40 + 1.70 3.52
Income 127.20 135.30 + 1.20 4.07
Intl Bond 177.60 187.70 ... 5.07
ITU 220.10 234.10 + 2.80 0.78
Japan Growth 149.50 159.00 + 0.40 ...
Japan Smaller 176.10 187.30 + 0.40 ...
Korea 78.10 83.08 + 2.45 ...
Masterfund 54.36 57.83† + 0.44 0.78
Scotbits 312.30 332.20 + 1.70 0.86
Scotshares 295.70 314.60† + 2.50 1.66
Scotyields 253.90 270.10 + 2.80 3.49
Select Intl 147.60 157.00 + 0.70 0.53
Smaller Cos Inc 244.70 260.30 + 1.10 3.69
SE Asia 693.10 737.30 + 11 ...
Special Situation 125.40 133.40 + 1.00 0.58
UK Equity 257.60 274.00 + 2.70 2.55
UK Growth 66.31 70.54 + 0.99 1.43
UK Smlr Cos Gwth 44.94 47.81 + 0.27 1.12
US Growth 148.00 157.40 ... 0.06
Univ Growth 149.40 158.90 + 1.00 0.34

SCHRODER UNIT TRUSTS LTD
Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria St EC4V 4EJ Client: 0800 526 535 Broker: 0800 526 540 General Enquiries: 071 382 3800
Retail Funds
American 250.04 266.05† - 1.12 0.70
Australian
European Gwth 73.26 78.02† + 0.33 0.75
Euro Smllr Cos 68.50 73.04† + 0.41 0.17
Far Eastern Gth 100.87 107.59 + 0.57 ..
Gilt & Fixed Int 59.15 62.34 + 0.10 6.75
Global Bond 55.57 57.41 - 0.11 4.95
Global Emer Mkts 58.99 62.92 + 0.51 ..
Income 363.16 387.37 + 3.62 3.57
Japan Smllr Cos 439.12 468.39 - 0.91 ...
Japan Enterprise 62.71 66.89 - 0.12 ...
Pacific Gwth 152.57 162.74 + 0.81 ...
Seoul 53.32 56.86† - 0.60 ...
Smaller Cos 211.13 225.20† + 1.19 0.71
Tokyo 106.64 113.74 - 0.30 ...
UK Enterprise 245.78 262.16† + 1.87 2.17
UK Equity 245.98 262.37† + 2.41 2.39
US Smllr Cos 146.90 156.66† - 1.00 ...
World Fd 82.36 87.85 + 0.60 1.79
Institutional Funds
European 231.30 245.79 + 2.36 1.14
Euro Smllr Cos 27.90 29.68† + 0.21 1.62
Global Equity Inc 74.89 79.67 + 0.42 0.68
Japan Smllr Cos 33.16 35.27† + 0.10 0.07
Mngd Balanced 189.30 201.38† + 1.16 2.27
Overseas Equity 184.40 196.16† + 1.34 0.77
Oseas Smllr Cos 118.24 125.78 + 0.18 0.29
Pacific 284.13 302.26 + 3.71 0.67
Recovery 1896.4 2017.6 +17.53 2.38
UK Index 160.01 170.22† + 1.39 2.83
UK Small Cos 113.69 120.94 + 0.73 2.47
US Smllr Cos 41.89 44.56 - 0.22 0.11

SCOTTISH AMICABLE UT MGRS LTD
150 St Vincent St, Glasgow G2 5NQ
041 204 2200
Equity Income 52.57 55.93 + 0.30 3.02
Equity Trust 61.11 65.08 + 0.20 3.85
Equity Strategy 67.19 71.56 + 0.22 0.64
European Opps 84.90 90.42 + 0.62 0.22
UK Smaller Cos 61.10 65.07 + 0.20 1.42
Maximum Income 99.40 101.96 + 0.02 4.59
Japanese 66.41 70.73 - 0.42 ...
Asia Pacific 145.21 154.65 + 2.54 1.40
American 104.51 111.30 - 0.42 0.26

SCOTTISH EQUITABLE FD MGRS LTD
28 St Andrew Sq, Edinburgh 0800 454 422
Cash 29.76 29.76 ... 5.070
UK General Inc 54.76 58.41 + 0.37 2.31
Intl Income 259.80 309.90 + 2.00 2.74
European 73.08 77.16† + 0.40 1.47
Japan 62.26 66.32† + 0.28 0.12
American 67.58 71.84 + 0.14 1.77
Far East 101.03 107.77 + 0.44 0.19
Ethical 31.13 33.29 + 0.21 1.84
UK Blue Chip Inc 34.81 37.22 + 0.32 2.54
High Inc Inc 38.92 41.52† + 0.32 3.25
UK Global Inc 40.37 43.12† + 0.14 1.29
Wwide Tact 77.30 82.07 + 0.51 0.34
Europe 2000 Tact 49.69 52.77 + 0.41 1.17
Technology 97.25 103.74 + 0.20 0.30

SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS
19 St Andrew Sq, Edinburgh 031 225 2211
UK Equity 395.90 422.10 + 3.70 2.41
American 270.20 288.80 - 0.10 0.64
Pacific 405.60 434.60 + 2.00 0.50
European 531.80 568.80 + 3.10 0.82
Worldwide 95.18 101.80 + 0.30 0.77

SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MGRS LTD
109 St Vincent St, Glasgow G2 5HN
041 248 6100
UK Equity Inc 283.80 302.00† + 2.40 2.27
UK Sir Cu Eq Inc 195.90 208.50† + 2.00 1.46
Select Oppnty Inc 69.96 74.85 + 0.72 2.17
Income Plus Inc 76.11 81.37 + 0.80 3.39
European Inc 346.30 368.30 + 4.90 1.34
Far Eastern Inc 191.40 203.70 + 1.30 1.17
Japanese Inc 59.09 62.43 + 0.20 ..
Nth American Inc 246.50 262.30 .. 0.41
Intl Growth Inc 209.90 223.30† + 1.10 0.71
Wwide Venture Inc 93.54 98.88 + 0.40 1.25

SCOTTISH PROV INV MGMT LTD
6 St Andrew Sq, Edinburgh EH2 2YA
031 558 2340
Equity Growth Inc 25.08 26.64 + 0.18 2.60
Intl Growth Inc 31.65 33.58 + 0.19 0.64
Market Leaders Inc 24.47 26.19 + 0.20 2.52

SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND MGMT
PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU
031 668 3724
Equity Inc 386.70 412.40 + 0.80 2.75
UK High Inc 199.50 212.70 + 0.50 3.44
Europe Inc 329.80 350.70 + 3.80 0.85
Nth Amer Inc 214.50 228.80 - 0.10 0.04
Global Inc 210.00 224.00 + 1.60 1.03
UK Spec Sits Inc 106.10 113.20 + 0.10 2.97
South East Asia 242.00 263.40 - 2.80 0.45
Cash Trust Inc 100.20 100.20 ... 4.95
UK Smllr Cos Inc 104.60 111.50 + 0.30 1.81
Intl Bond Inc 102.60 108.90 + 0.20 5.82

SEMPER EADEM FUND MGMT LTD
5 Rayleigh Rd, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex
Enquiries: 0277 227 300 Dealing: 0277 261 010
Sector Recovery 159.70 167.70 + 0.90 3.98

SHARP (ALBERT E) & CO
5 Rayleigh Rd, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex
Enquiries: 0277 227 300 Dealing: 0277 261 010
European 127.10 133.80 + 1.30 1.41
Nth American 104.60 110.10 - 0.30 0.95
Intl Bond & Conv 137.60 145.10† - 0.20 4.77
Pooled Pension (£) 185.50 198.40 .. ..
Smaller Cos 68.60 72.30† + 0.39 2.07
UK General 137.40 144.60† + 1.10 2.90

SHEPPARDS UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
1 White Hart Yard, London Bridge SE1
071 407 5966
Income 456.02 484.06 + 4.05 3.81
Global Inc 71.12 75.66 + 0.62 2.48
Brit Leaders 357.22 380.02 + 4.29 2.12
Intl Leaders 215.54 229.30 + 0.01 0.59
PAM Mg Bal Grth 65.02 67.55 - 0.01 0.95

SINGER & FRIEDLANDER INVESTMENT FUNDS LTD
21 New St, London EC2M 4HR 071 626 6226
European ‡ 117.50 .. - 0.30 ..
Global Bond ‡ 108.40 .. - 0.10 6.89
Samurai ‡ 82.23 ... - 0.08 ...
UK Growth ‡ 112.90 ... - 0.50 3.52
Tai Pan ‡ 108.40 .. - 0.20 ...

SMITH & WILLIAMSON UT MGRS
1 Riding House St, London W1A 3AS
071 637 5377
American 295.80 313.00† - 1.00 0.46
Canadian 79.35 83.97 - 0.06 0.35
Capital 140.00 150.10 + 1.40 1.19
Cash 101.10 101.10 + 0.01 5.23
European 133.10 140.80 + 0.40 0.40
Far Eastern 182.30 192.80 + 2.10 ..
Growth 152.40 161.30 + 1.60 1.08
Income 139.20 147.30 + 0.80 4.29
Magnum 148.70 159.50 + 1.60 1.13
Smllr Secs 370.30 391.80 + 2.20 0.49
Thoroughbred 172.50 185.10 + 1.80 1.04

SOVEREIGN UNIT TST MGRS LTD
12 Christchurch Rd, Bournemouth
0202 298 422
Cash 49.82 50.32† ... 4.75
Chrtld Prtmnce 61.98 66.11 .. 7.20
Ethical 59.60 63.40 .. 3.20
European Growth 71.63 76.41 ... 2.20
Income 59.52 63.48† ... 5.03
Intl Growth 94.69 101.00 ... 2.50
Managed 81.34 86.76 ... 3.10
UK Growth 64.80 69.12 ... 3.50

STANDARD LIFE TST MGMT LTD
3 George St, Edinburgh EH2 2XZ 0800 393 777
Managed Acc 51.65 54.88 + 0.20 1.15
UK Equity Gth Acc 73.55 78.15 + 0.50 1.04
-do- High Inc Inc 40.64 43.24 + 0.10 2.88
-do- High Inc Acc 48.85 51.91 + 0.10 2.88
UK Equity Gen Acc 64.41 68.44 + 0.30 1.80
UK Equity Gen Inc 48.55 51.59 + 0.20 1.80
UK Lrgr Co Acc 438.80 476.10 + 1.50 3.18
UK Lrgr Co Inc 332.90 361.20 + 1.10 3.18
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc 34.79 36.90 ... 5.43
Oseas Lrg Co Acc 299.00 324.50 + 1.20 1.23
Nth American Acc 45.33 48.17 + 0.10 0.50
Far East Acc 66.83 71.01 + 0.20 0.15
European Acc 49.43 52.52 + 0.40 0.48

STATE STREET UT MGMT LTD
29 King Street, London SW1 6QW 071 344 7000
Global A (NZ$) 3.851 4.090 ... 1.15
US Eqs (US$) 2.274 2.413 ... 0.66
Far East Eqts (yen) 231.80 246.20 ... ...
Japan Equies (yen) 230.60 244.90 ... ...
FT Europe 126.10 133.90 ... 1.55
FT N Amer (US$) 1.760 1.866 .. 0.74
FT Japan (yen) 221.20 235.00 .. ..
FT Asia Exjap (US$) 2.552 2.711 ... 0.75

STEWART IVORY UNIT TST MGRS LTD
45 Charlotte Sq, Edinburgh 031 226 3271
American 362.70 387.20 - 0.80 0.17
British 1095.6 1116.6 + 7.80 3.24
Emging Mkts 162.40 173.00 + 1.20 0.20
European 489.00 520.80 + 5.00 1.03
Japan 143.40 152.10 + 0.20 ..
New Pacific 420.30 447.60 - 1.50 0.73
Investment Tst 240.80 256.20 + 3.30 0.97
Mngd Equity 180.60 191.10 + 0.70 1.36
Mngd Cash 96.21 96.21 ... 4.50
Majority Stg 100.43 101.43 + 0.01 4.33

SUN ALLIANCE UNIT TST MGMT LTD
5 Rayleigh Rd, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex
Enquiries: 0277 227 300 Dealing: 0277 690 389
Equity 862.50 922.50 + 8.40 3.38
North America 127.10 135.90 - 0.40 0.27
Far East 163.30 174.70 + 0.90 ..
Wwide Bond 63.43 67.34 - 0.17 5.11
European 101.30 108.30 + 0.90 ...
Equity Income 99.02 105.90† + 1.20 3.45
Portfolio 89.14 95.34 + 0.69 0.42
UK Leading Cos 62.16 66.13 + 0.70 2.74
Broker Trusts
Intnl Equity 67.61 72.31 + 0.18 ...

SUN LIFE OF CANADA UT MGRS LTD
Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants 0800 525 725
American Growth 35.79 38.38 - 0.04 0.49
Managed Assets 135.67 145.11 + 0.83 2.65
UK Income 42.11 45.04† + 0.39 2.87
UK Growth 41.36 44.24 + 0.37 2.28
Worldwide Growth 34.59 37.00 + 0.15 0.57

SUN LIFE TRUST MGMT LTD
101, Cannon St, London EC4N 5AD
Admin & Enq: 071 606 4044 Dlg: 071 606 6010
Master Portfolio 49.19 52.61† + 0.10 0.24
Cap Protector Inc 44.59 47.69† + 0.58 2.47
UK Income Inc 56.11 60.01 + 0.40 2.80
Mngd Extra Inc Inc 34.18 36.56† + 0.17 3.48
Mngd High Yld Inc 85.41 91.35† + 0.60 3.65
Mngd Inc/Gth Inc 80.40 85.99† + 0.67 2.73
Mngd Wwide Gth 37.14 39.72† + 0.04 ...
UK Smaller Cos 34.24 36.62† + 0.31 1.54
Pacific Grth Port 52.57 56.22 - 0.04 ...

SWISS LIFE UNIT TST MAN CO LTD
5 Rayleigh Road, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex
Enquiries: 0277 227 300 Dealing: 0277 261 010
Equity Dist 576.20 609.70† + 4.80 2.17
Fixed Int Dist 128.60 133.30† ... 6.87
UK Indx Trck Dist 137.50 145.50† + 1.40 2.67

TSB UNIT TRUSTS
Charlton Pl, Andover, Hants SP10 1RE
0264 346 794
American 218.41 232.35 - 0.79 ...
Brit Growth 100.58 107.00 + 1.09 1.66
European 106.01 112.78 + 0.68 0.29
Extra Income 214.26 227.93 + 2.17 3.60
Smaller Cos 72.74 77.39 + 0.62 1.01
General 309.70 329.46 + 2.77 2.05
Premier Income 57.21 59.60 + 0.07 5.37
Income 370.76 394.43† + 3.39 3.28
Pacific 425.93 453.12 + 3.74 ..
International 562.01 597.88 + 1.92 0.11
Nat Resources 162.76 173.15 + 0.15 ...
Stead Opps 113.64 120.89 + 0.99 1.23
Environmental Inv 64.05 68.13 + 0.52 1.54
Selector 66.54 70.79 + 0.57 2.01
High Income 71.82 76.41† + 0.55 3.88
Intl Income 63.73 67.79 + 0.10 4.26
Selector Income 67.08 71.36 + 0.41 4.64

TU FUND MANAGERS LIMITED
NLA Tower, Addiscombe Road, Croydon
081 686 4355
British 347.40 365.60 + 3.50 3.53

TEMPLETON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 8HA
031 228 3932
Glob Growth Inc 197.18 210.89 + 0.72 1.67
Glob Balncd Inc 171.14 183.04 + 0.39 2.73
Value Tst Inc 117.59 125.76 + 0.59 1.30

THORNTON UNIT MANAGERS LTD
33 Queen Street, London EC4R 1AX
071 246 3000 Dealing: 071 246 3001
Amer Smllr Cos 67.30 71.78 + 0.03 ..
European Opps 71.52 75.90† + 0.49 0.39
Dresdner Eur Bd 44.79 47.07 + 0.04 8.05
Japan Tst 80.33 85.67 - 0.09 ...
Little Dragons 121.63 129.73 + 1.29 0.36
Oriental Income 50.51 53.87 + 0.30 4.59
Tiger 326.53 348.29 + 3.03 0.46
UK Blue Chip 68.04 72.68† + 0.56 2.72
UK Smllr Cos 97.37 104.13 + 1.21 1.93
Formerly AEtna
Nth Amer Gwth 224.35 238.67 - 1.60 0.64
European Growth 276.54 293.63 + 2.81 0.96
Exempt 570.17 595.83 + 4.87 3.43
Far Eastern 470.24 500.26 + 4.00 0.88
UK High Yield 112.06 119.20 + 0.83 3.70
Iberian Growth 46.55 49.52 + 1.01 ..
Intl Growth 109.60 116.61 + 0.52 1.29
Preference 130.60 139.03 + 0.04 7.80
UK Recovery 266.27 283.27 + 1.59 2.57
UK Smlr Cos Div 99.07 105.39 + 0.33 4.62
Smaller Cos 252.60 268.72 + 1.22 1.52
UK Growth 535.58 569.77 + 5.33 2.27

WARDLEY UNIT TST MGRS LTD
3 Harbour Exchange Sqr, London E14 9GJ
071 955 5055
Exempt 364.40 383.60 .. 2.05

WAVERLEY UNIT TST MGMT LTD
13 Charlotte Sq, Edinburgh 031 225 1551
Australasian Gold 22.92 24.36 .. ..
Pacific Basin 39.90 42.44 .. 0.50
Can Balncd Gwth 36.38 38.70 - 0.07 0.60
Global Bond (US$) 0.9603 1.0001 +0.006 5.44
Penny Share 27.07 28.79 + 0.31 1.50

WHITTINGDALE UNIT TST MGMT LTD
2 Honey Lane, London EC2V 8BT 071 600 0462
Challenger 106.43 108.90 + 0.30 ..
Short Dtd Gilt 115.90 117.40 - 0.10 ..
US Govt Bd (US$) 0.7224 0.7315 +0.000 ..
Gilt Income 56.29 58.58† - 0.06 6.25
Gilt Growth 79.00 82.20 - 0.10 ..
City Reserve 51.82 53.62 + 0.01 4.59

WOOLWICH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
2 White Oak Square, Swanley BR8 7AG
0322 664 000
Stockmarket Fd 80.22 85.33 + 0.99 1.62

Source: Finstat
* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return). † Ex dividend; ‡ Middle price; .. No significant data.

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Surge continues

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began December 13. Dealings end December 31. §Contango day January 4. Settlement day January 10. §Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
488	345	Abbey Nat	488	+8½	11.8	3.0	18.4
290	179	Allied Irish	286	...	...	3.6	14.6
226½	130	Aus New Z	214	+2	...	4.1	∞
3806½	2712½	Bankamerica	3100 †	-50	...	...	...
295	177	Bk of Ireland	283	...	...	...	...
350	325	Bk Leumi UK	350	...	...	4.4	20.9
240½	116½	Bank Scotland	227	...	17.0	6.1	...
646	362	Barclays	624	+1	4.6	2.6	30.6
28	15½	Carlisle	26	+1	...	2.5	...
598	395	Cater Allen	595 †	+½	...	...	...
170	55	Cantes	170	...	28.0	5.9	...
2487½	1787½	Chase Manh	2325	-3	...	3.3	22.6
3600	1343½	Citicorp	3475	+12½	...	...	...
495	280	Close Bros	495	-25	...	...	...
£155	9275	Commerzbk	£152½	+150	...	2.8	18.0
£348½	£250	Deutsche Bk	£348½	+53½	...	2.6	...
95	45	First Nat Fin	60	...	...	1.8	...
1651	876	Fuji Bank Y	1401	...	...	1.0	...
529	343	Gerrard Nat	450	...	...	0.4	...
894	490	HSBC	801	...	21.5	6.0	12.0
905	474	HSBC HK	803	+13	20.0	2.8	21.3
403	243	Hambros	396	+12½	20.0	2.8	21.6
428	313	Joseph (L)	418 †	+8	14.3	4.5	18.3
155	76	King Shaxson	132 †	...	16.7	5.0	...
599	312	Kleinwort Ben	595	-1	9.0	8.5	...
655	492	Lloyds	644	-4	16.7	3.5	20.6
118	63	Lon Scot Bk	95	-4	19.1	3.7	18.4
575	322	Nat Aust Bk	522 †	...	2.9	3.8	18.8
620	398	Nat West	592	-5	...	4.1	∞
460	270	Provident	454	+3	17.8	3.8	36.0
60	39	Rea Bros	59	+1	12.4	3.4	19.7
464	207	Pvt Bk Scot	459 †	...	0.5	1.2	62.7
1360	467½	Schroders	1360	...	...	3.0	24.5
1259	576	Stand Chart	1221	...	...	1.1	27.1
260	145½	TSB	254½	+32	20.5	2.1	...
190	78	Union Disc	164	+3	6.4	3.1	...
948	529	Warburg SG	944	...	...	...	...
8831½	4843½	Wells Fargo	8831½	+2	...	2.6	13.8
211	121	Westpac	202 †	+118½	...	2.3	...
325	188	Wintrust	315	...	9.3	3.7	28.2

BREWERIES

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
664½	517	Allied-Lyons	662 †	-8	...	4.0	18.4
647	441	Bass	555 †	-3	...	4.5	15.0
299	189	Boddington	285	-3	7.5	3.3	16.6
450	362	Bulmer (HP)	411	-2	...	3.2	16.3
184	129	Burtonwd Brw	179	...	4.7	3.3	15.0
145	75	Eldridge P 'A'	143	...	...	3.2	∞
70½	50	Fosters Brewing	62	...	...	4.2	∞
435	338	Fullr Sm 'A'	420	...	7.5	2.3	17.9
480	373	Grand Met	473	+6½	...	3.5	18.1
455	347	Greenalls Grp	455	+5	...	3.5	15.4
575	505	Greene King	552	...	...	2.8	15.3
521	368	Guinness	490	-11½	...	3.1	18.3
281	230	Hardy Hansn	239	...	8.5	4.6	∞
138	105	Heavitree	135	...	3.0	2.8	32.2
364	255	Highland Distl	355	+2	...	2.3	17.7
3138	2538	Holt J	3125	...	42.0	1.7	20.4
80	33	Hoskins Brew	75	...	...	...	54.0
323	250	Invrgordn Dist	301	...	...	2.9	17.2
186	118	Macallan-Glen	133	...	...	1.1	...
465	375	Macdn Martn 'A'	400	...	4.3	4.1	20.9
229	164	Mansfield	228 †	+5	...	2.8	19.1
290	231	Minton Thmp	275	+3	...	2.2	16.3
565	288½	Matthew Clark	565	...	...	2.5	15.3
300	230	Mrrydwn W	230 †	...	...	4.0	18.8
580	455	Morland	513	...	7.0	3.8	20.6
12	6½	Paramount	10½	...	...	2.4	17.6
309	145	Regent Inns	209	+½	...	2.1	∞
1253	753	SA Breweries	1228 †	+2	...	2.7	21.2
554	393	Scot & New	541	-1	...	2.2	20.8
225	155½	Taunton Cider	172 †	-1	...	4.0	16.4
283	213	Vaux Group	276	...	6.2	4.5	13.4
357	225	Wetherspoon JD	338	-1	9.5	4.4	∞
592	435	Whitbread 'A'	583	...	...	2.0	26.2
613	463	Wolvrhmptn D	521 †	+4	...	3.9	14.0
515	475	Young 'A'	485	...	12.6	3.0	∞
				...	14.7	3.8	20.1

BUILDING, ROADS

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
155	73	Abbey	155	...	...	1.6	25.5
25½	12	Albrighton	18	-1	...	0.7	...
140	87	Allen	146 †	-1	...	4.3	33.1
123	65	Amec	119	...	3.0	3.2	22.0
12	4	Anglia Sec	8½	+1	...	...	...
333	150	Ashtead	333	+4	...	1.7	35.2
143	101	Atwoods	137	+1	...	4.6	...
354	180	BPB Ind	354	+4	...	2.7	42.4
96	57	Baggeridge Brk	94	...	3.1	4.3	∞
31	18	Bailey (Ben) Con	26	...	0.6	2.9	...
108	74	Barcon	85	...	3.0	4.5	∞
56½	32½	Bardon	46½	+½	2.0	5.4	22.9
220	94	Barratt Devs	217	+7	4.0	2.3	∞
482	305	Bellway	482	+1	12.0	3.1	∞
46	15	Bellwinch	46	...	...	...	...
523	292½	Berkeley Gp	523	+1	...	1.5	28.1
118	45	Beti Bros	118	...	...	2.1	15.2
68	36	Blockleys	65	+1	1.0	1.9	71.8
355	189	Blue Circle	348	+4	...	4.0	...
285	230	Boot (Henry)	277	+4	6.0	2.7	15.5
106	78	Breedon PLC	95	+1	4.6	6.1	23.4
131	82	Br Dredging	130	...	5.2	5.0	28.9
86	45	Brit Fittings	78	...	1.7	2.8	...
169	99	Bryant	166	+1	...	3.6	33.5
123	53	CALA	123	...	...	2.3	...
354	200	CRH	348	-1	...	2.5	19.1
43	18	Cakebread Rby	31	...	...	...	...
41½	21	Costain	28	...	...	...	...
155	86½	Countryside	152	+2	...	3.4	∞
100	38	Crest Nicholson	97	...	0.0	...	...
112	27	Cussins	103	...	...	1.2	...
7½	1½	Dunton	4	-1	...	...	...
25	15	Edmond Hldgs	19	...	0.3	2.0	...
285	178	Epwin	275	+3	7.0	3.2	23.3
59	32	Erith	57	...	0.3	0.8	...
506	252	Eve Group	435	...	...	3.0	16.4
4½	3	Explaura	4½	...	...	...	...
140	97	Freeman Gp	134	-½	...	4.7	21.3
50	38	Galliford	41	...	...	3.0	...
87	52	Gibbs & Dandy	87	...	...	2.0	...
923	695	Gleeson (MJ)	913	...	...	1.7	15.9
165	90	Hewden-Stuart	165	+4	...	2.5	28.4
51	28	Heweston	46	...	...	3.4	33.6
402	173	Heywd Wim	400 †	+4	13.0	4.1	...
119	37	Higgs & Hill	119	...	2.5	2.6	...
38	26	How Gp	28	...	...	5.0	...
21	15	Howard Hldgs	20	...	0.5	3.1	...
85	39	Ibstock Johnsen	85	+2	1.0	1.5	...
19½	12½	Jarvis	16	+1	...	...	...
316	196	Laing (J)	304	+2	9.0	3.7	12.2
127½	103	-do- 6.4% Cv Pf	122½	+1½	...	6.5	...
112	55	Ln Clydeside	111	...	4.5	5.1	41.8
23	10½	Lovell (YJ)	11	...	...	...	5.0
375	240	Manders	375	-4	9.3	3.1	23.0
192½	93	Marley	192	...	4.2	2.7	56.3
131	61	Marshalls	130	...	...	3.9	...
196	122	Maunders (J)	196	-1	...	3.3	18.9
240	96	McAlpine (A)	240	+4	6.5	3.4	41.6
54	23	McCarthy & S	53	+1	0.5	1.2	...
549	272	Meyer Int	529	+1	...	2.4	53.0
130	62	Mowlem (J)	130	...	4.0	3.8	...
165	51	NSM	150	...	...	...	...
53	48	Needler	48	...	...	3.7	22.4
171	106	Newman Tnks	165	...	...	5.1	22.0
309	197	Persimmon	309	+4	8.6	3.5	31.5
26	9	Phoenix Timber	9	...	...	...	...
1725	1237½	Pockins	1725	...	29.0	2.1	24.3
198	80	Prowting	198	+8	3.4	2.1	...
6½	1½	Quiligotti	1½	...	...	...	...
973	555	RMC Gp	987	+9	...	2.6	36.3
117	75½	Raine Ind	94	+2	...	4.0	22.2
36	18	Ransom	23	...	...	...	...
603	402	Redland	599	+10	25.0	5.2	34.9
86	64	Rosiel	80	...	4.3	6.7	11.8
342	207	Rugby Group	338	+3	6.4	2.4	25.0
68	23	Svrlld-Rve	58	...	...	0.5	...
163	68	Sharpe & Fisher	162	...	...	3.1	28.2
268	86½	Sheffield Insl	268	+4	...	2.5	65.8
230	82	Sheriff Hldgs	230	+4	...	2.1	∞
95	66	Shorco	94	...	...	6.9	21.4
240	196	Smart (J)	228	...	...	4.7	17.2
6½	1½	Starmin	2	...	...	...	...
180	100	Tarmac	179	+3½	5.5	3.8	...
192	131	Tay Homes	192 †	+4	...	3.8	23.7
142	63	Taylor Woodrw	136	+2	1.0	0.9	...
633	433	Tilbury Dougls	619	+1	33.0	6.7	20.1
39	19	Torex Hire	36	+1	...	1.4	...
315	168	Travis Perkins	314	...	8.0	3.2	55.3
40	25	Try Group	28	...	1.0	4.5	7.9
28	21	Tudor	21	...	...	1.5	...
98	41	Vibroplant	90	...	2.5	3.5	32.4
65	20	Ward Hldgs	54	...	...	...	...
36	25	Waterhouse	33	...	...	...	...
475	360	Watts Blake	450	+4	...	3.3	19.4
21½	6½	Wescol	20	...	...	...	...
195	90	Westbury	195	+3	5.0	3.2	30.4
12	4½	West Scaffold	7	...	...	...	...
4½	3	Wiggins	3½	...	...	...	...
495	362	Wilson Bowdn	495	...	...	2.2	34.8
216	147	Wilson (C)	215	...	3.9	2.3	37.2
194	104	Wimpey G	184	+6	...	3.6	...
47	15	YRM	20	+1	0.5	3.1	...

BUSINESS SERVICES

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
675	463	ADT	585	+1	...	...	...
253	198	Adam & Harvey	253	+3	13.0	6.4	4.6
92	56	Air London	64	...	...	6.8	11.4
56	37	African Lakes	44	...	2.0	5.7	...
178	93	Auto Sec	130	...	...	5.9	23.3
140	84	BET Ord	133½	-3½	...	2.1	5.4
115	41	BNB Res	115	...	4.9	5.3	...
318	183	BPP	230	...	8.3	4.5	12.7
285	195	Barbour Index	233	...	8.0	4.3	15.0
28	15	Boustead	22	...	0.7	4.0	...
269	184	Brit Data Mgt	218	+3	4.7	2.7	15.0
26	11	Broadcastle	23	...	...	1.4	18.3
73	48	Brooks Service	59	...	...	1.1	...
109	86	CRT Gp	98	+1	...	3.7	17.2
213	139½	Capita Group	213	+8	...	1.3	33.3
50½	31	Caskey Plc	50 †	+3½	...	2.3	19.2
55	18½	Chiltern Capital	23	...	...	...	...
70	26	Christie	65	...	...	...	...
384	228	Chubb Sec	362 †	+2	...	1.8	22.5
116	90	Comace	114	...	...	1.6	28.8
42	6½	Corp Services	41	...	...	...	...
91	30	Coutts Cnsltg	83	...	...	...	...
154	50	Dart	152 †	+12	3.3	2.7	20.6
256	198	Davis Service	234	+9	...	4.3	17.6
124	85	EW Facts	119	...	4.4	4.7	13.6
32	11	Gardiner	25½	...	0.4	2.1	17.7
288	215	Hays	287	+3	...	2.3	25.0
248	174	Hogg Robinsn	245	+7	...	3.4	17.9
70	34	Holmes Protectn	39	...	...	...	2.4
337	127	Hutch Whamp	331	-4	...	1.4	27.7
2175	975	ISS B DKr	2125	...	...	1.0	14.7
637	475	Inchcape	561	+7	...	3.2	18.3
875	669	Johnson Clean	865	...	25.7	3.7	18.0
12	2½	Lep	7	...	...	...	...
288	173	Mitie Gp	284	+4	3.5	1.5	22.1
1187	893	Manpower	1133	+92	...	...	...
65	40½	Michael Page	65	...	1.8	3.5	27.6
279	175	Pennan	115	...	...	8.7	4.3
4½	2	Prime People	3½	...	...	...	...
142	57	Proudfoot Alex	64	...	...	29.3	3.5
423	337	RCO	370	...	14.1	4.8	12.7
118	86	REA	97	...	2.0	2.6	...
108	43	Reed Executive	104	+1	...	...	...
156	105	Reliance Secs	106	...	...	5.4	22.7
246½	178	Rentokil	246½	+9½	2.5	1.3	30.7
295	230	Rolfe & Nolan	295 †	+5	...	3.2	20.3
349	319	Salvesen (C)	331 †	+4	...	3.0	22.0
42	26	Scot Pickford	42	+2	...	2.4	13.4
10	5	Select Appt	8	...	...	...	...
1278	695	Serco Gp	1270	...	13.3	1.3	35.1
352	83	Sherwd Cmpt	110	+3	...	8.0	3.2
130	90	Sketchley	99	-1	...	3.8	22.6
355	310	Warner Howrd	325	...	6.6	2.6	17.0
45	27	Welpac	27	-1	...	...	...
28	14	Wills Gp	25½	...	...	2.0	17.8

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
248	210	Allied Colloids	233	+1	...	2.3	21.4
1029	613	Amersham	1029	+11	...	1.7	29.6
7	1½	Anglo Utd	3½	...	...	...	...
£115½	8325	BASF DM	£115½	+137½	...	5.7	...
303	198	BTP	302 †	+1	...	3.9	24.3
£142½	£101½	Bayer DM50	£142½	+225	...	3.8	...
178	108	Blagden	108	...	6.5	7.5	11.6
165	93	Brent Chems	160	...	...	7.0	12.1
530	345	Br Bio-Tech	353	...	...	22.2	16.0
39	5	Caird Gp	9½	...	...	...	...
180	126	Canning (W)	150	...	7.2	6.1	17.2
608	421	Courtaulds	462	+7	...	3.8	11.6
347	229	Croda	327	...	...	3.0	18.8
149	103	Doeflex	109	+2	4.6	5.3	8.4
227	175	Ellis & Everard	227	+3	...	3.9	21.7
42½	15½	Euro Colour	36	...	0.8	3.1	17.2
348	250	Halstead (J)	348	...	...	2.3	17.2
241	150	Hickson	175	...	...	5.7	16.2
£120½	8850	Hoechst	£120½	+325	...	3.0	...
239	160	Holliday Chem	160	...	...	2.9	14.7
780	608	ICI	768	+14	...	4.5	...
722½	576	Laporte	717	+8	19.9	3.5	19.8
230	161	Leigh	190 †	+3	...	5.2	16.7
97½	38	MTM	48	+1½	...	...	...
2050	1462½	Norsk Hydro	1887½	+25	...	1.5	26.8
464	370	Paterson Zoch	461	...	...	3.4	15.6
420	360	-do- 'A'	416	...	...	3.8	14.0
296	193	Plysu	279	-10	...	4.0	18.5
303	173	Porvair	265	+2	3.8	1.8	28.3
70	35	Sutcliffe Speak	59	...	...	...	...
485	412	Wardle Storeys	443	+2	...	4.9	31.5
575	395	Wolstenholme R	573	...	17.0	3.7	19.6
425	330	Yorks Chem	393	...	...	2.5	21.0
300	231	Yule Catto	258	...	...	2.9	16.1
815	503	Zeneca	814	+8	...	4.2	48.1

DRAPERY, STORES

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
102	53	Alexon	66	...	...	5.7	...
87	42	Amber Day	70 †	-1	1.3	2.4	∞
365	237	Argos Plc	361	...	...	2.3	32.5
25	8½	Ashley Group	11	...	...	2.1	...
118	69	Ashley (Laura)	82	...	0.1	0.2	...
330	278	Asprey	307 †	-1	5.2	2.1	19.8
183	94	Austin Reed	183	+8	...	1.7	...
155	125	Beattie (J) 'A'	147	...	...	5.2	14.8
121	94	Bennalls	110	...	1.9	2.2	...
278	126	Betterware	139	+2	...	1.9	16.6
47	22	Blacks Leis	38 †	...	2.2	7.4	...
227	133	Body Shop	223	+3	...	1.0	28.8
16½	9½	Brown & Jacksn	12½	+½	...	0.8	6.3
434	318	Brown (N)	420	...	...	2.2	24.7
87½	60½	Burton	65	+1½	...	3.9	...
195	126	Camers	195	...	...	2.6	27.2
388	295	Church	388	+28	12.5	4.0	34.5
183	97	Clinton Cards	152	-1	4.3	3.6	18.3
280½	212	Coats Viyella	259½	...	...	3.6	35.9
112	78	Colourvision	83	...	5.6	8.4	14.9
181	154	C'try Casuals	157	+1	...	3.3	14.6
935	374	Courts Furnish	890	...	5.6	0.8	11.1
155	115	Crown Eyes	155 †	...	...	6.0	10.6
130	89	Dairy Farm Intl	120	-1	...	3.0	17.6
98½	51½	Dewhirst (IJ)	98	...	0.8	1.0	31.5
293	189	Dixons Grp	274	+3	...	2.8	...
21	8	ERA Gp	8½	...	...	...	...
530	400	Ellys (Wimbldn)	530	...	16.0	3.8	18.2
220	71	Essex Furn	220	+22	...	2.0	25.2
273	207	Etam	232	+2	7.0	3.8	21.3
608	499	Fine Art Dev	524 †	-2	13.0	3.1	17.0
70	26	Fired Earth Tiles	47	...	...	...	...
690	498	Formlnster	690	...	14.5	2.7	12.4
180	24	French Conne	123	-3	...	...	...
74	43	Gent SR	72	+5	...	3.6	22.4
85	23	Goldsmiths Gp	85	+7	0.3	0.4	...
631	334	GUS	631	+16	...	2.3	10.4
40	21	Hampden Grp	21	...	...	6.0	10.4
277	30	Hartstone	54	+2	...	...	...
33	20	Helene Plc	32	+½	2.0	7.9	15.1
93	28	Heritage	93	...	...	...	...
79	35	Honeysuckle	70	...	...	4.0	∞
181	63	Jacques Vert	170	...	...	2.1	13.7
751½	496	Kingfisher	737	+18	...	2.4	25.4
75	62½	Leslie Wise Gp	75	+2	4.0	6.7	15.5
685	495	Liberty	535	...	7.2	1.7	63.0
399	241	Lloyds Chem	359	+10	...	2.5	12.6
161½	120	MFI	161½	+2½	...	2.9	33.9
457	311	Marks Spencer	440½	...	...	2.4	22.5
580	445	Menzies (John)	569	+5	...	2.4	16.1
253	135	Moss Bros	238	...	5.5	2.9	28.0
226½	139½	Next	226½	+10½	3.5	1.9	27.0
41	15	Oliver (G)	38	...	...	...	...
325	197	Oriflame Intl	310	-3	...	4.0	15.0
63	24	Pentos	25	-½	0.8	4.0	5.2
313	185	QS Hldgs	225	...	5.1	2.9	16.0
69½	20½	Rhino Grp	64	...	...	...	...
185	120	Rosebys	185	+5	...	3.3	22.2
188	135	Sherwood Gp	147	...	...	2.2	13.2
131½	93	Sears	129	...	...	3.4	...
41½	11	Signet Group	23½	...	...	...	...
527	400	Smith WH 'A'	519	...	...	3.4	17.0
20	4½	Specialeyes	13	-2	...	...	...
237	176	Storehouse	236	+1	...	2.7	23.1
191	146	T & S Stores	147	...	6.0	5.1	10.9
162	71	Tie Rack	156	-1	1.0	0.8	25.5
239	160	Time Products	234	...	7.7	4.1	30.2
128	63	Usher (Frank)	111	...	...	6.8	9.6
396	302	Vendome	385	+2	...	2.0	17.9
45	27	Vival	36	...	1.0	3.5	11.1
48	34	Wensum	44	-1	...	5.3	...
120	76	Wickes	114	+2	...	0.2	51.8
78	45	Wid of Leather	54	...	...	...	...
192½	142	Wyevale	176	...	...	3.0	23.3
4	2½	Xtra-vision	2½	...	...	...	...

ELECTRICALS

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
187	134	ACT Group	147	...	...	4.3	14.8
275	223	Acal	263 †	...	...	3.1	18.9
162½	38	Acorn Comp	76	-2	...	...	38.5
480	385	Admiral	475	...	5.7	1.5	20.1
170	104	Alba	163	...	...	3.7	18.4
50	19½	Alphameric	39	...	...	...	...
55	22	Amstrad	40½	...	0.5	1.5	∞
128	61	App Holo	74	...	...	...	...
43	9½	Arlen	35	...	...	...	...
88	35½	Astec	81	+½	...	0.4	...
293	224	Beales Hunter	240	...	...	4.9	14.8
9	2	Bennett & Fount	2½	...	...	...	...
446	319	BICC	403	-4	19.2	6.0	...
558	408	Bick	470	+1	10.2	2.8	∞
1700	925	Borland	1100	...	...	...	...
384	270	Bowthorpe	360 †	-8	...	2.4	23.9
489½	376	BT	486½	+3	...	4.1	18.8
232½	150	BT P/P	229½	+3½	...	4.1	23.1
18½	5½	Bulgin (AF) 'A'	14½	...	...	0.1	0.8
160	48	Burnfield	69	...	5.7	10.4	10.9
520	334½	Cable Wireless	519 †	+8½	...	1.8	27.1
27½	11½	Chloride	24	+½	...	...	...
273	229	CML Micro	270	...	...	2.2	19.6
115	74	Comptr People	108	-2	...	...	...
164	108½	Cray Elect	159	+11	...	1.2	16.3
433	243	Crichley	427 †	...	...	1.4	24.6
554	414	Delta	482	-2	...	3.6	20.1
446	205	Denmans Ela	446	+1	...	1.7	19.0
620	395	Domino	400	...	7.4	2.3	13.7
70	48	Dowding Mills	69	+1	...	4.5	29.6
1230	865	Druck	1213	...	10.0	1.6	25.9
530	358	Electrocomps	520	+5	...	2.0	21.2
710	470	El Data Prc	593	+5	5.5	1.2	∞
146	43	Electron House	133	...	2.6	2.4	29.2
30½	10½	Emess	21	-½	0.1	0.6	...
719	442	Eurotherm	719	+18	9.5	1.7	∞
195½	108	FKI	194½	...	...	2.1	28.5
559	340	Farnell Elect	559	+1½	...	1.8	29.6
91	33	Feedback	73 †	...	...	3.4	9.9
18	1	Ferranti	1	...	...	...	...
304	101	First Tech	300	+1	...	0.8	24.9
270	81	Forward Gp	233	...	...	2.1	16.5
22½	13½	Forward Tech	15	+½	...	...	...
307½	264	GEC	330 †	+3	10.4	4.0	16.5
199	132	Graseby	165	+1	...	8.3	34.7
14	7½	Graystone	11	...	...	...	...
32	25	Hillcare	39 †	...	...	1.6	...
169	83	INSTEM	135	...	...	2.9	9.7
150	118	Ind Control	150	...	...	3.7	15.1
388	320	Jones Stroud	386	...	...	2.8	15.6
105	26	Kalamazoo	101 †	...	2.7	3.3	23.5
19	8	Kembray	12½	...	0.1	1.6	...
349	260	Kenwood App	345	+4	...	2.9	19.2
265	47	Kewill Sys	223	+1	...	...	...
209	100	Kode	165	...	6.0	4.5	19.6
60	16	Laser-Scan	19	...	...	...	...
365	122	LBMS	145	...	...	0.6	20.4
300	205	Lec Refrig	258	...	9.0	4.4	...
179	129	Life Sciences	147	+6	3.7	3.2	15.9
285	164	Logica	268	...	...	1.9	30.9
55	44	LPA Ind	52	...	...	8.5	14.7
229	162	MR Data Mngmt	203	...	...	3.2	19.1
718	523	Macro 4	665	+7	...	3.3	21.2
243	175½	Menvier-Swa	227	...	...	1.9	21.0
3013	903	Micro Focus	923	+3	...	...	8.5
227	144	Microgen	148	...	7.2	6.1	10.1
35½	23½	Microvitec	32½	...	...	...	...
529	357	Misys	507	...	...	1.7	18.5
384	98	Mitel	350	+15	...	...	...
153	108	MMT Compa	143	...	...	3.5	19.5
32	16	Molynx	36½	+½	1.3	...	...
272	202	MTL Inst	250	...	...	1.9	18.8
165	103	Muirhead Elect	141	...	3.5	3.1	25.6
267	116	Murray Enter	267	+18	...	1.9	∞
3206½	2612½	NYNEX	2712½	-12½	...	...	...
188	128	Neotronics	128	...	2.6	2.5	16.3
65	42	Newmark (L)	54	...	...	...	...
295	98	Norbain	279	+10	...	0.7	21.5
75	20	Northamber	47	-1	0.6	1.6	...
15½	5	Oceonics	7½	...	...	...	...
314	195	Oxford Inst	313	+2	4.6	1.8	21.4
83	48	P-E Internl	78	+5	...	...	...
81½	20	P & P	62	+3	1.5	3.0	32.9
85	55	Peek	77½	...	3.4	5.5	20.2
227	115	Pegasus	204	...	...	3.9	52.4
9750	9000	Philips Fn 4%	9750	...	...	5.0	...
1437½	725	-do- Lmp nv	1387½	...	...	2.4	...
348	211	Phonelink	348	+6	...	...	...
293	171½	Pifco	293	...	...	1.8	24.6
283	151½	-do- 'A' Voting	283	...	...	1.8	23.7
96	63	Plasmec	72	...	...	5.2	6.1
120	76	Pressac	100	...	...	3.2	21.2
188	81	Psion	181	+13	...	1.7	48.1
201	147	Racal Elect	194 †	+5	4.2	2.7	11.5
70	38	Radamec	38	...	...	4.9	8.1
70	24	Radius	27	...	2.2	10.4	9.3
92	61	Real Time	73	-3	...	5.1	15.0
35	18	Riva	25	...	...	...	31.7
629	367	Sage Gp	515	...	9.9	2.4	∞
348	222	Sanderson Elec	310	...	9.9	4.1	13.0
88	49	Scantronic	72 †	...	3.1	5.5	19.7
181	117	Scholes Grp	162	+2	...	3.9	21.0
375	270	Sema Gp	309	...	2.9	1.2	25.1
42	26	Silverminnes	40	+1	...	3.1	...
64	37	Soundtracks	64	+4	...	4.4	21.6
2675	1737½	TDK	2275	...	...	1.4	25.7
22	4½	TDS Circuits	11½	...	...	...	...
198	80	Telemetrix	142	...	0.8	0.7	23.4
1017	809	THORN EMI	1009	+11	...	4.0	23.2
152	96	Thorpe FW	133	+1	...	2.5	15.5
103	24	Total Systems	24	...	1.5	7.8	4.3
575	372	Tunstall	568	...	7.0	1.6	∞
295	164	Unitech	256	...	...	3.0	60.6
14	6	Verity	13	...	...	...	...
35	22	Vistec	22 †	-1½	...	2.1	13.0
588	367	Vodafone	582	+10	...	1.6	25.3
473	368	Volex	441 †	+9	18.1	5.1	18.1
26	11	Western Selectn	20 †	...	0.2	1.6	...
290	223	Wholesale Ftgs	265	...	11.7	5.5	28.2

ELECTRICITY

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
676	389	East Midlands	668	+8	...	3.9	11.7
702	399	Eastern Elect	701	+10	...	3.7	13.2
480½	304	Hydro-Elect	476	+13	...	3.1	16.6
671	404	London Elect	671	-11	...	4.0	12.5
770	458	Manweb	770	+14	...	3.6	9.5
728	424½	Midlands Elec	728	+12	...	3.7	11.4
497	273	National Powr	497	+23	...	2.8	12.3
737	440	Northern Elec	737	+12	...	3.9	9.5
279	100	Nthn Ireland	279	+5½	...	3.2	13.3
759	439	Norweb	759	-15	20.8	3.5	10.8
562	273	PowerGen	562	+22	...	3.5	14.7
483	285	Scottish Power	482	+13	...	3.0	17.7
751	436	Seeboard	747	+9	...	3.5	9.6
756	469	Sth Wales	756	+13	...	3.9	11.5
701	426	Sth Western	701	+10	...	3.8	10.2
720	406	Southern Elec	720	+11	...	3.6	9.4
690	455	Yorkshire Elec	690	+11	...	3.9	12.9

FINANCE, LAND

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
60½	50	Aitken Hume	53½	...	1.0	2.3	11.3
133	47	BWD	132	...	...	3.2	20.6
101	26	Baltic Plc	99	...	...	1.3	...
628	413	Caledonia	624	...	...	3.1	23.2

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
1900	1075	Camellia	1900	...	...	2.0	7.1
334	243	Candover	324	-15	10.4	4.0	22.9
384	71	Fletech	384	+2	...	0.2	...
367	155	Govett	367	+1	...	4.5	10.8
188	125	Ivory Sime	185	+5	...	4.8	15.8
7½	3	LIT	7½	...	...	...	...
240	154	Lon Forfaitng	236	+2	8.7	4.6	17.2
79	47	Manakin	79	...	...	...	...
12½	3½	Nat Home Loan	8½	-½	...	...	...
52	40	Newmarket	52	...	...	...	...
341	246	Rathbone Brs	310	...	6.5	2.6	16.8
26	17	Rutland Tst	21½	...	...	4.7	12.8
340	283	S & U	315	+2	10.2	4.0	11.7
85	48	Singer & Fried	85	+3	...	4.4	...
1088	713	Sotheby's	1085	+10	...	3.1	...
132	113	SIP Capital	132	+2	3.0	2.8	54.4

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
2536½	1487½	Amer Express	2087½	-15½	...	...	...
1133	835	Henderson Ad	1023	...	...	5.1	23.6
200	92	Invesco	189	+2	...	2.0	...
295	164	Jardine Strat	295	+6	...	2.7	12.3
283	154	MAI	263	...	...	3.3	16.7
728	380	MAM	718	...	16.0	2.8	17.9
1013	683	M & G	1013	+3	25.0	3.1	∞
433	109	Smith New Ct	425	+3	...	2.1	4.1
81	45	Trio Hldgs	59	...	2.5	5.4	∞

FOODS

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
569½	456	AB Food	568	+1	...	3.3	11.6
77½	40½	ASDA Group	54½	+½	1.6	3.8	...
345	170	Acatos & Hutch	338	-1	8.0	3.0	∞
80	55	Albert Fisher	65	...	3.7	7.2	∞
407	245	Argyll	276 †	+½	...	5.0	9.9
402	160	Banks (S C)	220	+3	9.0	5.1	9.8
85	57	Bensons Crsps	58	...	6.5	2.6	15.6
141	100	Berisford Intl	127	...	...	6.1	13.0
455	357	Booker	408	+½	...	...	...
52	35	Borthwick	49½	...	...	6.7	35.4
505	430	Brake Bros	468	...	...	3.0	61.5
51	38	Budgen	40	...	6.3	1.7	19.5
517	402	Cadbury-Schw	509	-2	...	3.1	12.1
144	78	Carrs Milling	143	...	...	3.3	18.0
196	133	Cranswick	163	+7	...	3.8	10.2
23	8½	Cullens	13	...	...	6.2	15.2
384	119	Dalepak	121	...	0.5	4.8	37.3
521	424	Dalgety	492	+4	6.0	6.2	9.5
54	27	Daniels S	50	...	...	5.2	14.1
257	191	Devro	249	+1	...	0.6	...
134	99	Everest	101	...	...	2.8	23.7
383	260	Farepak	375	+1	5.7	4.6	18.3
10	3	Farringford	7	...	...	1.9	23.1
94	64	Finlay (James)	69	...	...	...	...
125	78	Fyffes	100	...	...	7.5	22.9
483	305	Geest	375	...	8.1	1.6	18.0
16	7	Global	14	...	...	3.0	15.1
50	43	Grand Central	49	...	...	4.5	21.8
203	139	Hazlewood Fds	145 †	...	0.8	2.0	...
175	131	Hillsdown	161	-1	...	5.6	8.2
250	146	Iceland Group	173	+2	8.8	6.8	12.6
131	92	JLI Group	101	...	...	2.5	10.9
853	542	Kwik Save	584	+9	...	5.9	11.0
282	144	Low (Wm)	155	+1	...	3.9	10.5
86	41	Matthews (B)	86	+1	...	6.8	5.4
19½	11	Merchant Retail	13	...	2.3	3.4	56.3
174	84	Morrison (W)	101	+1	0.9	9.3	26.2
233	177	Nichols (JN)	226	...	...	1.0	13.1
291	207½	Nthn Foods	224 †	+4	5.5	3.1	16.4
20½	8	Nrthmbrn Fn	9	...	...	4.7	11.0
229	172	Nurdin Peack	181	...	...	...	...
275	205	Park Foods	275	...	...	4.3	10.0
115	58	Perkins Food	67	...	...	2.7	21.2
114	47	PizzaExpress	109	...	...	8.3	7.7
9	1½	Regina Hlth	5½	+1	...	0.6	23.0
584	360	Sainsbury J	436	+1½	...	...	...
86	33	Sentry Farm	73	+5½	...	2.9	15.4
225	90	Sims Food	93 †	...	...	2.6	13.1
439	355½	Tate & Lyle	392½	+3	...	8.7	17.9
273	176	Tesco	211	+2	...	4.1	10.4
211	123	Thorntons	160	+2½	...	4.3	9.6
183	101	Treats	145	...	...	2.9	...
410	300	Unigate	358	+6	...	3.2	16.6
437	326	Utd Biscuits	357	+3	...	5.7	11.7
24½	18½	Osborne	21	...	...	5.4	22.1
337	248	Watson & Phil	279	+1	13.2	5.9	14.5

HOTELS, CATERERS

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
26	12	Abrdn Stk H	26	...	...	...	...
93½	77	City Centre Rest	90	+3	1.5	2.2	21.7
265	170	Forte	261	+4	...	3.6	20.5
215	148	Friendly Hotels	172	+2	...	4.1	33.5
11½	5	Harmony Prop	9½	...	...	...	...
158	87	Rays Hotel	158	...	...	4.0	12.8
222½	142	Ladbroke	164	+9½	11.1	8.5	14.0
85	59	Mandarin Ortl	84	+1	...	4.0	20.8
59	44	Queens Moat	47½	...	...	3.7	...
99	83	-do- 7¾% cvpr	85	...	7.5	11.0	...
2½	½	Regal Hotels	1½	...	...	...	...
55	28	Resort Hotels	45	...	3.4	9.6	8.8
26	11½	Ryan Hotels	18½	...	...	...	...
855	700	Savoy Hotel 'A'	800	...	7.0	1.1	...
66	34½	Stakis	64	+4	...	0.9	...

INDUSTRIALS

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
218	19	AAF Inds	36	-2	...	...	2.2
616	455	AAH	480	+6	...	4.6	16.0
185	123	ADM	138	...	7.5	6.8	8.4
132	88	APV	118	-1	...	5.7	...
238	81	ASW	157	...	...	4.8	...
186½	118	Adwest	167	+3	...	5.4	16.1
29	10	Aerospace Eng	19	+½	...	4.9	25.0
288	249	Airsprung	288 †	...	...	2.0	18.4
192	113	Alenda W	192	+3	4.1	2.7	30.4
13½	6½	Allied Radio	7½	...	...	...	...
292½	207½	Almasec	283	...	...	2.6	16.7
48	17	Alvis	39	...	1.0	3.2	∞
725	345	Amber Ind	725	...	...	3.3	16.6
56	45	Amberley Gp	50	...	...	2.5	...
107	75	Aragen	81	...	...	...	...
145	65	Andrews Sykes	67	...	...	5.6	...
1005	703	Antofagasta	988	...	...	2.0	18.3
54½	37	Armour	48	+1½	...	4.3	11.4
170	143	Ash & Lacy	168	...	6.4	4.8	17.2
4	2½	Ass Br Eng	3½	...	...	1.8	...
541½	434	Avon Rubber	474 †	...	...	4.4	∞
268	168	Assoc Nursg	267	...	...	0.5	16.3
687½	488	Atlas Equip	490	...	...	5.6	12.3
81	35	Ayrshire Metal	66	...	...	...	...
197	147	BBA	190½	-½	...	4.9	16.2
110	28	BLP Group	110	+10	...	...	...
20	13	BM Gp	24	...	0.5	3.3	...
770	590	BOC	676	+13	...	4.3	16.0
75	50	BSG	62	+½	...	6.5	21.6
549	353	BSS Group	549 †	...	...	3.9	30.6
409½	311	BTR	380	+11	...	3.7	21.2
221	147	BWI	148	...	...	5.7	13.7
50	25½	Babcock	29	+½	...	4.7	17.3
9	4½	Bailey (CH)	7½	...	...	...	...
289	220	Baird (Wm)	228	-2	8.9	4.9	15.8
1062½	550	Barlow Rand	750 †	-12½	...	4.5	∞
65	48	Baynes (Charles)	63	...	...	2.9	25.8
15	4	Beauford	4½	...	...	...	...
10	2	Beckenham	2½	...	...	...	...
34	15	Bedford (W)	28	...	...	...	...
27½	5	Benson Group	15½	...	...	2.4	11.7
707	285	Bespak	325	...	10.2	4.0	10.0
133	55	Bibby (J)	66	+1	2.0	3.8	∞
312	129	Billam (J)	226	+7	5.3	2.9	11.4
41	21½	Bilston Battsea	30	...	...	...	...
11½	2	Bimec Ind	9½	...	...	...	...
243	118½	Birkby	243 †	+2	3.7	1.9	12.6
45	29	Black Arrow	32	...	2.1	8.5	9.7
1½	½	Black & Edgtn	1½	...	...	...	...
254	136	Black (Peter)	254	-1	3.7	1.8	22.3
590	129	Bluebird Toys	558	-8	...	1.0	17.0
322	230	Bodycote	259	...	...	2.5	16.6
40	23	Bogod 'A'	33	...	0.7	2.7	12.2
576	416	Boots	575	+14½	...	3.0	22.7
61	39	Booth Inds	43	...	...	...	...
523	402	Bowater	490	...	...	3.0	20.5
1682	1189	Bowater Inc	1577	...	...	...	...
279	199	Boxmore Intl	260	...	...	1.8	19.5
19	12½	Brasway	15	...	...	4.3	...
303	204	Brammer	288	...	13.0	5.6	21.4
27	12	Bridgend Gp	23	...	0.4	...	...
125	64	Bridon	121	...	...	4.1	...
88	53	Bridport-Gndry	81	+3	...	3.9	...
48	31	Brierley Inv	48	...	...	7.0	11.6
308	190	Br Bldg & Eng	190	...	8.0	5.3	∞
119	42	Br Bloodstock	117	...	...	...	...
528	415	Br Polythene	445	+17	...	2.9	16.0
135½	54	Br Steel	122	+1	...	1.5	...
180	80	Br Syphon	85	...	...	4.4	23.8
195	115	Br Thornton	175	+1	...	3.6	17.9
268	215	Br Vita	243	+6	7.3	3.8	15.0
15½	5½	Brixton Grp	15	...	...	...	...
805	555	Broken Hill	741	-1	...	2.4	34.9
112	78	Bromsgrve Ind	90	...	...	6.1	11.7
10½	6½	Brooke Tool	10½	+1½	...	...	...
73	36	Brown & Tawse	51	+1	...	...	...
157	91	Bullough	157	+7	6.0	4.8	26.9
34	11½	Business Tech	14	+½	...	...	...
28	12	CI Group	15	...	0.5	4.8	14.4
42	11	Campbell & Arm	38	+1	...	...	...
39	6½	Cannon St	32	-½	...	...	...
260	205	Cape	254 †	...	...	5.2	17.2
415	254	Caradon	415	+5	...	2.6	33.5
199½	128	-do- pf	199½	+3	7.2	4.5	...
269	178	Carclo Eng	269	+7	8.6	4.0	19.1
2888	2025	Carnaud Mtl	2163	+63	...	2.9	∞
80	66	Cassidy Bros	80	...	...	3.8	13.1
225	158	Castings	220 †	...	4.6	2.6	15.5
71	53	Cathay Intl	60	...	...	...	...
195	113	Chamberlin Hill	170	...	6.5	4.8	10.6
753	605	Charter	723 †	...	...	3.8	11.1
345	220	Chemring	315	...	9.0	3.6	∞
92	45	Chieftain Gp	46	...	4.5	12.2	9.9
45½	15½	Chillington	40	...	1.0	3.2	...
230	144	Christies Int	225	...	...	0.8	55.0
68	34	Claybrithe	46	...	...	4.6	...
95	55	Clayton Son	55	...	...	...	...
7	7	Co Designers	7	...	...	...	...
405	255	Cohen (A)	403	...	3.4	1.1	...
242	179	Community H	242	...	...	3.6	16.5
240	186½	Concentric	211 †	+3	5.8	3.5	∞
288	120	Cook (Wm)	289	+2	6.0	2.8	16.3
233	182	Cookson	229	...	...	3.3	20.3
81	38	Copymore	81	...	...	1.5	24.7
238	130	Crmwll Pkr 'A'	147	...	...	4.8	19.9
178	92	Crosby	112 †	...	5.3	6.0	∞
245	150	Creighton Nt	245 †	+20	...	3.8	17.6
48	27	CrestaCare	45	...	0.6	2.1	33.7
3056½	2993½	Dana	3862½	+150	...	...	...
313	79½	Danka Bs Sys	284	+1	...	0.7	22.0
254	193	David Brown	244	...	...	3.1	17.3
22	5	Davies (DY)	19	...	...	...	...
846	632	De La Rue	846	+10	...	2.8	20.4
38	16	Dinkie Heel	37	...	1.1	3.7	29.5
574	391	Diploma	550	+4	12.0	2.7	∞
89	50	Dobson Park	80 †	...	3.7	5.3	∞
119	92	Dyson (J&J)	114	...	5.0	5.5	21.0
83	57	-do- 'A'	81	...	5.0	7.7	14.9
16½	8	EFG	14	...	...	...	...
440	358	EIS	373	+14	...	4.0	14.8
28	19	Elbief	22	...	...	...	...
50	19	Eleco	45	...	...	...	0.00
2537½	1750	Electrolux 'B'	2290	+46½	...	2.3	...
73	43	Elliott (B)	69	...	...	...	...
482	394	Eng China Cl	479	+3	...	5.2	27.9
140	111	Environmed	125	...	...	...	∞
3962½	1550	Ericsson 'B'	2700	+62½	...	1.1	...
83½	32	Eurocopy	83½	+1½	1.7	2.6	∞
87	47	Expamet	58	-11	...	5.2	1.4
717	499	Fairey Group	668	...	10.7	2.0	20.6
121	47	Fenner	119	...	...	...	...
85	32	Ferraris Group	82 †	-1	2.0	3.0	∞
4	½	Ferrometal	4	...	...	...	...
20	13	Ferrum	14	-1	1.4	12.5	9.8
66	28	Fife Indmar	63	...	...	5.5	...
251	102	Fisons	112	...	...	9.7	10.4
55	29	Fitzwilton	55	...	...	8.2	...
288	215	Flogas	263	...	...	3.8	12.0
43	33	Folkes Group nv	38	...	1.5	4.9	21.6
94	56	French (Thomas)	94	+1	3.6	4.8	47.1
238	162	Frost Group	238	+1	...	2.3	30.8
88	70	GEI Int	77	...	...	4.0	...
530½	434	GKN	530½	+8	...	4.8	35.4
51	42	GR Hldgs	49	...	...	4.6	...
101	79	Garton Eng	91	...	4.1	5.7	...
161	103	Gestetner	138	+3	8.2	7.4	6.0
68	23	Gieves	49	...	...	...	35.5
801	509	Glaxo	723	+19	...	3.8	18.9
38½	16	Glenchewton	38	...	...	...	...
374	245	Glynwed	366	+1	11.6	4.0	34.5
129	66	Goode Durrant	125	...	...	5.4	...
170	102	Grampian Hd	170	+4	5.5	4.0	29.5
536	341	Granada	534	+8	...	2.1	21.9
455	301	Great Uvrsl? Great Sthrn	452	...	...	3.2	18.6
117	73	Green (Ernst)	81	...	...	10.8	12.3
15½	8½	Greenacre	14½	...	...	2.6	14.3
17	5	Guardian Grp	6	...	...	...	...
68	30½	Haden MacLn	68	...	...	3.7	34.5
102	44	Hadleigh Inds	98 †	...	...	1.3	...
290	115	Hall Eng	273	+5	8.6	4.0	22.8
235	161	Halma	235	...	...	1.1	29.3
53	30	Hampson Ind	47	...	1.6	4.3	15.5
286½	222	Hanson	273 †	+½	...	5.2	20.2
221	146	Harris (Philip)	147 †	...	...	5.8	8.9
205	147	Harrisn Crsfld	195	+1	9.0	5.8	28.1
123	38	Havelock Euro	120	+2	...	...	...
51	20	Hay (Norman)	38	...	...	...	...
33	17	Headway	33	+1	...	2.7	...
13½	1½	Healthcare	1½	-1½	...	...	0.5
449	301	Hepworth	444	-5	14.8	4.2	19.1
228	160	Hewitt (J)	200	...	3.2	2.0	15.9
57½	15	High-Point	55	...	0.5	1.1	...
178	112½	Hill & Smith	178	+3	...	4.0	24.8
19½	6½	Hobson	16	+½	...	...	77.0
176	87	Holders Tech	172	...	...	4.4	22.4
52	30	Hopkinsons	45	...	0.9	2.5	34.0
188	133	Hornby	176	-1	...	6.4	16.6
88	54½	Howden	77	+3	2.2	3.6	14.2
260	173	Hunting	216	...	...	5.8	18.2
508	269½	Huntigh Tec	475	...	...	2.6	12.1
327	247	IMI	327	+3	...	3.8	29.0
119	90	ISA Intl	115	+1	1.5	1.7	17.9
205	131	Intercare Gp	153	...	...	2.9	∞
286	235	Isotron	284	...	4.3	1.9	16.5
665	360	Jardine Math	640	-8	...	2.0	23.2
537	425	Johnson Mattn	535 †	+11	...	2.5	20.9
64	35½	Johnson & Fb	37 †	...	1.3	4.6	∞
177	104	Johnston	162	...	3.2	...	...
32	19	Jones Shipman	27	+1	...	...	...
35	18	Jourdan (T)	29	...	0.7	3.2	...
178	73	Kalon	149½	-2	...	2.9	20.8
297	195	Kelsey Ind	230	-25	8.0	4.4	∞
735	465	Kershaw (A)	730	...	27.0	4.6	37.9
275	75	Kleeneze	274	...	1.0	0.5	∞
164	61	LGW	160	...	3.4	2.7	13.3
351	266	Laird	341	+1	...	3.8	16.8
157½	103	Lilleshall	145	...	...	3.8	19.1
223	97	Lincat	205	...	...	3.7	14.4
33½	6½	Lincoln Hse	30½	...	...	...	25.1
128	76	Linread	95	...	3.8	5.0	14.7
318	170	Linton Park	313	...	...	5.6	11.3
15½	9½	Lionheart	10½	...	...	...	...
22½	15	Locker (T) A	17	...	0.2	2.4	...
274	97	Lon Intl	134	+4	0.8	6.3	24.7
144	70	Lonrho	130	...	6.2	5.8	...
388	269	Low & Bonar	365	+6	4.0	3.8	...
44	14½	ML Hdgs	44	...	...	3.2	51.1
56	27	MS Intl	55	...	...	...	...
59	39	MY Holdings	49	...	...	5.8	55.6
223	168	Macfarlane	223	...	...	3.3	∞
460	379	McKechnie	449	...	...	1.9	25.3
123	85	McLeod Russel	119	+4	14.7	4.1	∞
106	69	Magnolia	100	...	...	6.4	17.6
132	71	Mang Bronze	130	...	0.1	0.1	16.1
26½	19½	Marling	20½	...	2.5	2.4	∞
213	124	Mayborn	213	...	...	5.2	...
62	29	Mayflower	53	...	...	3.1	16.4
236	85	Medeva	132	...	...	1.1	44.3
118	88	Meggitt	96½	+½	...	2.3	10.7
125	98	Metalr	116	...	...	5.0	16.4
154	119	Metrotect	120 †	...	...	4.0	19.0
99	70	Metece	99	...	...	3.4	16.7
96	29	Midstates	96	+9	...	1.0	13.4
28½	14	Mining & Ald	23	-½	0.7	4.2	∞
570	368	Molins	570	+5	...	3.2	13.7
365	262	Morgan Cble	359	...	...	4.4	18.8
184	134	Morris Ashby	176	...	...	4.1	13.2
38	18	Neepsend	34	...	1.0	3.7	45.6
73	34	Nestor-BNA	63	+2	3.1	6.3	15.1
204	122	Nobo Gp	204	+4	4.8	2.9	20.1
195	122½	Norcros	193	-1	...	4.6	27.7
51	33	Novo Group	33	...	...	4.2	10.6
413	310	Nu-Swift	399	...	...	...	∞
81	36	Office Elec Mac	58	...	...	...	...
56	21	OMI Intl	52½	...	...	4.2	...
165	123	PCT	164	...	...	5.5	18.6
91	36	Pacer Systems	88	...	...	4.9	...
138	87½	Pentland	102	...	...	3.2	13.9
395	285	Photo-Me	289	...	4.6	2.0	18.6
179½	97½	Pilkington	179 †	+2	...	1.8	...
93	68	Plansbrook	93	...	3.1	4.2	14.7
154	125	Polypipe	139	-1	2.1	1.9	18.8
42	15	Porter Chadbrn	16	...	...	3.1	7.3
14½	5½	Porth Gp	12½	...	...	...	...
376	272	Powerscreen	319	+7	...	2.7	16.6
21½	16½	Prospect Inds	19	...	0.8	5.4	∞
65	33½	RPS Group	56	...	2.3	5.1	12.4
95	73	Radiant Metal	85	...	...	...	...
186	77	Ramco Oil	152	+1	...	0.8	50.9
989	636	Rank Org	980	+6	31.0	4.0	26.8
33	13	Ransomes	13	...	...	...	...
701	532	Reckitt Coltn	701	+14	...	3.0	16.2
77	50	Record	70	...	3.6	6.4	34.4
7½	2½	Reece	3½	...	...	...	...
277	131	Relyon	272	-5	5.0	2.3	32.6
303	208	Renishaw	295	...	...	2.8	35.1
126	55	Renold	126	...	...	1.7	...
1885	1240	Reuters	1880	+64	22.1	1.5	31.1
83	24½	Rexmore	76	...	2.0	3.5	...
188	91	Ricardo Group	183	...	...	3.9	25.9
76	58	Richard (Leics)	70	...	3.7	6.7	...
98	68	Richardson West	85	...	3.0	4.5	21.8
142	109	Ropner	130	+2	8.2	7.9	18.4
136	97	-do- 'A'	126	+2	8.2	8.2	17.9
38	14	Ross Gp	18½	+½	0.6	4.4	7.6
184	131½	Rotork	169	+1	...	2.7	19.8
167	89	Rubicon	167	+2	...	3.3	23.4
66	43	Russell (A)	62	...	...	1.0	...
37	15	SKP Indl	37 †	+3½	0.8	2.7	∞
1087½	625	SKF 'B'	1087½	+37½	...	...	...
60½	39	Saville Grdn (J)	59	...	...	4.7	28.4
248	205	Scapa	233 †	+1	...	3.0	17.4
238	179	Scholl	180	+1	...	4.4	13.1
6½	4	Scot Heritable	5 #	...	...	...	...
323	277	Scotia	285	+1	...	...	...
1143	917	Securicor	1143	+5	2.6	0.3	43.5
888	562	-do- 'A'	888	...	2.6	0.4	33.8
768	465	Security Serv	768	+2	5.1	0.8	38.0
126½	77	Senior Eng	123	+½	...	3.3	20.5
361	278	Sexton Health	313	-2	...	2.4	18.5
68	42	Sheldon Jones	43	...	...	...	...
166	88	Shiloh	138	...	3.0	2.7	14.9
344	271	Sidlaw	300	...	...	4.4	14.9
587	427	Siebe	572	-5	...	3.3	20.0
383	230	Silentnight	358	+2	...	2.8	19.4
181	132	Sime Darby	168	-13	...	3.2	∞
142	32	Simon Eng	122	+1	...	...	...
259	180	Sinclair (Wm)	187	...	...	4.7	14.6
47	35	Six Hundred	36	...	...	5.2	...
164	134	Smith & Neph	148	-½	...	4.0	16.4
513	373	Smithkline	396	+5½	9.6	3.1	14.3
450	340	Smithkline Uts	364	+8	...	3.3	12.3
450½	320	Smiths Inds	450½	+8½	...	3.3	18.1
140	58	Stan Bus	75	...	3.5	5.8	7.1
466	265	Spandex	466	...	...	1.8	20.7
660	300	Spear (JW)	510	...	4.5	1.1	9.5
376	314	Spirax-Sarco	337	+1	...	3.4	21.1
145	44	Spring Ram	56	-2½	...	0.5	18.1
270	201	Staveley	210½	-3½	...	5.0	11.9
197	126	Sterling Ind	197	...	...	3.8	29.9
187	97	Suter	179	...	9.0	6.5	18.7
540	244	Swire Pacific 'A'	524	...	...	1.7	...
7	1	Sycamore	2½	...	...	...	...
78	53	Sykes-Pick	53	...	...	7.3	10.1
168	120	Sylmone	168	+2	...	3.6	24.0
414	279	TI	412	+3	...	3.3	28.1
33	12	TLS Range	30	...	...	1.0	...
337	211	TT Group	329	+3	...	2.5	20.3
299	201	Takare	299	+5	...	0.9	22.6
868	618	Takeda Chem	693	...	...	0.9	13.1
68	24	Tex Hldgs	61	...	...	...	...
109	70	Tinsley (E)	98	+1	...	7.3	16.5
240	150	Titon	220	-1	...	2.4	∞
271	213½	Tomkins	231½	-6	...	3.4	17.1
112	67	Trafalgar H	91½	+2	...	4.5	...
116	61	Transfer Tech	68 †	...	3.2	5.9	8.6
190	120	Triplex Lloyd	135	...	...	6.6	15.9
278	214	UniChem	277	+3	6.4	2.9	18.1
375	275½	Unidare	365	...	...	3.5	∞
76	11½	Unigroup	37	...	...	...	...
1249	938	Unilever	1209	+14½	22.2	2.3	16.4
8112½	6362½	Unilever (NV)	7087½	+37½	...	2.7	13.0
24½	9	Utd Inds	11½	...	...	...	...
915	513	VSEL	853	+13	...	4.5	9.2
13½	6½	Verson	13½	-½	...	...	...
174	95½	Vickers	174	...	...	1.6	...
364	243	Victaulic	264	...	...	3.7	13.0
454	283	Vinten	450	+1	...	2.0	20.9
694	422	Vosper Thorny	660	+2	...	3.1	15.3
48	33	WSP Hldgs	36	+2	...	9.4	9.4
468	368	Wagon Ind	451	+2	...	4.9	19.6
8½	1½	Wakebourne	1½	...	...	...	...
102	71	Walker Greenbk	101	...	3.1	3.8	25.8
258	201	Wassall	253	+2	2.7	1.4	25.5
47	22	Weford Widgwd	44	-1	...	...	...
384	252	Weir	306	+4	...	2.5	17.3
901	600	Wellcome	653	-8	...	3.3	13.9
27½	16	Wellman	22 †	...	0.9	5.1	35.9
358	260	West Hlthcare	337	...	...	1.4	21.6
510	455	Whatman	455	...	9.7	2.7	15.4
351	211	Whessoe	214	+2	8.2	4.9	∞
95	27	Whitecroft	93½	...	...	...	...
10½	4½	Widney	10½	...	...	...	...
130	44	Wilkes (James)	120	...	3.5	...	35.1
365	299½	Williams Hldg	363	+5	12.5	4.3	19.0
48½	17	Wishaw	39½	...	...	1.7	34.9
878	533	Wolseley	863 †	+3	...	1.9	25.8
155	125	Wood (Arthur)	155	...	1.5	1.2	56.5
46	35	Wyko	42	-1	...	3.0	...
70	38	Young (H)	70 †	...	3.3	5.9	∞

INSURANCE

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
1997½	1193½	Alex & Alex	1282½	+12½	...	5.3	...
2406½	1787½	Am Gen	1843½	+18½	...	4.0	...
68	30	Archer (AJ)	68	+1	1.0	1.9	...
183	133	Berry Bch Nbl	170	...	...	4.0	13.2
150	118	Bradstock	150	...	5.5	4.7	∞
498	359½	Britannic	420	+1	...	3.5	...
667	556	Com Union	651	+7	...	4.6	...
1750	1225	Dom & Gen	1748	...	...	1.6	23.1
50	18	FAI	46	-1	...	...	...
741	546	Gen Accident	724	+4	26.7	4.6	...
230	160	GRE	222	+1	7.1	4.0	18.4
412	293	Heath C E	390	+13	...	5.1	...
228	149	Hogg Gp	149	-1	8.1	6.8	13.5
215	162	JIB Group	171	+2	...	5.5	17.5
546	408	Legal & Gen	515	+6	...	4.7	31.3
1135	768	Liberty Life	1135	+23	...	9.3	22.1
117	99	LIMIT	117	...	...	...	...
468	403	Lloyds Abbey	412	-6	17.3	5.2	14.8
338	253	Lloyd Thomp	269	+1	6.7	3.1	16.7
395	274	London & Man	373	+7	14.7	4.9	27.5
443	321	Lowndes Lmb	437 †	...	14.0	4.0	15.7
6743½	5256½	Marsh McLn	5343½	-18½	...	3.4	...
130	70	Oriel	118	-1	...	5.1	...
76	50½	PWS	75	...	4.0	6.7	10.9
376	282½	Prudential	358	...	...	4.3	23.8
379½	266½	Refuge	321 ‡	+1	...	4.2	8.9
347	248	Royal	333	+16	...	2.4	...
204	150	Sedgwick	192	...	...	3.9	23.7
261	100	Steel Burrill	122	...	...	12.3	7.2
89	48	Sturge Hldgs	68	+1	3.0	5.7	∞
400	307	Sun Alliance	387	+9	14.2	4.6	...
88	50	Trade Indemnty	85	...	...	...	...
350	239	Transatlantic	350	+2	12.0	4.3	32.5
773	499	Utd Friendly	570	...	15.1	3.3	24.8
243	171	Willis Corroon	219	+2	...	3.8	47.1
25	13½	Windsor	24	...	...	...	18.9

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FIMBRA

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
1943	1548	Alliance	1943	-30	45.5	2.9	42.5
286½	226½	Alltr Trust	286½	+4	5.2	2.3	59.4
445	304	Ang & O'seas	445	+7	6.8	1.9	56.5
159	124	B2W Conv	159 †	+1	7.8	6.1	18.6
201	133½	Bankers	200	+2	3.6	2.3	∞
360	264	Baring Tribne	360	+4	6.4	2.2	59.9
203	131	Berry Starq	198	...	2.2	1.4	64.4
115	96½	Br Assets	115	+2	...	4.7	27.4
90	57½	Br Empire Sec	90	+1	...	1.3	76.7
34½	14	-do- Wnts	34½	+1	...	...	...
214	156	Br Inv	214	+6	4.6	2.7	48.2
214	130	Contl Asset	214	+2	2.4	1.4	71.2
195	143	Derby Inc	153	...	...	11.6	9.2
310	195	-do- Cap	310	...	...	...	...
95	62	Drayton Blue	95 †	+2	8.4	11.1	10.5
85	35	-do- Eng Intl	84	+1	1.0	1.5	...
142	84	-do- Far East	142	+4	0.6	0.6	...
153	95	-do- Korea	152½	+1½	0.5	0.4	...
759	576	Dunedin Inc G	759	+16	...	4.2	34.0
100	76	-do- Japan	86	+1	...	...	...
55	34	-do- Warrants	45	...	...	...	...
757	513	-do- Wrde	757 †	+8	9.5	1.6	∞
301	222	Dundee & Lon	301 †	+5	9.0	3.7	∞
340	250½	Edinburgh	340	+8	8.5	3.1	37.2
317	183	Electra Inv	317	+7	7.0	2.8	∞
203	141	Electric Gen	203	+4	3.1	2.0	62.8
118	85	English Scot	118	+2½	...	...	...
332	205	European Asset	332	+4	...	2.2	43.1
145	77	Finsbury 'A'	145	+2	3.0	2.8	46.6
323½	248	Fleming Amer	323	+3	0.8	0.3	...
243½	190½	-do- Claver	243½	+3½	...	2.7	48.0
349	212	Do Contl	349	+11	2.7	1.0	...
220½	147	-do- Enlp	220½	+4½	...	2.7	44.6
435	213	-do- F East	435	+5	1.1	0.3	...
364	246	-do- Fledg	364	+4	3.0	1.0	...
121	93	-do- Hi Inc	120	...	...	4.6	20.5
260	136	-do- Japan	226	+3	...	0.2	...
307½	250	-do- Merc	307½	+4½	6.7	2.7	65.8
324	212	-do- Oseas	324	+5	4.2	1.6	67.8
289	203	Foreign & Col	289	+5	...	1.5	78.7
131½	56½	-do- Emg Mkts	131½	+3½	0.2	0.3	∞
70½	44	-do- Enterprise	70½	+1	0.4	0.8	...
237	164	-do- Eurosn	237	+4	...	0.6	...
138	87	-do- German	138	+6	0.5	0.5	...
340	191	-do- Pacific	338	+3	...	0.8	...
173½	116	-do- Smaller	173½	+2½	1.8	1.3	...
272	145	GT Japan	256	+7½	...	0.6	...
179	65	Genl Cons Cap	179	+3	...	...	...
123½	96½	-do- Inc	111	...	...	9.5	11.5
168	115	Govett Am Smlr	168	+1	...	...	...
137	94	-do- Emg Mkts	137	+1	...	...	...
410	184	-do- Orientl	410	+7	0.9	0.3	...
297	207	-do- Strategy	296	+9	...	2.9	41.4
423	340	Greenfriar	423	+3	...	1.9	63.5
19	5	Gresham House	19	...	...	...	...
151	124	Inv Cap	151	+1	...	4.2	29.0
103	77	IRS UK Smlr	103	+4	2.8	3.4	28.7
227	156½	Kleinwort Chrt	227	+7	5.1	2.9	∞
256	176	-do- O'seas	256	+5	3.3	1.6	72.7
142	108	-do- Smlr	138	...	...	3.2	33.5
794	540	Law Debenture	794	+21	18.5	2.9	39.7
216	164	Majedie	216	...	...	2.9	40.4
308½	222	Merchants	308½	+7½	...	4.5	28.7
3343½	1850	Merrill Lynch	3031½	-75	...	...	...
571	383	Monks Inv Tst	571 †	+10	...	1.5	72.3
149	105	Morg Gren Inc	149	+2	4.5	3.8	∞
56	23	Do Warrants	56	+1	...	...	...
63	39	Murray Euro	62	+1	0.1	0.3	...
23½	4½	Do Wts	22½	+1	...	...	...
386	292	Murray Income	386 †	+6	10.9	3.5	36.9
383	265	-do- Intl	383	+6	11.6	3.8	34.5
488	363	-do- Small	488	+3	...	1.1	...
103	89½	-do- S/C Inc	89	...	...	14.9	∞
138	73	-do- S/C Cap	138	+4	...	...	...
3150	2750	-do- S/C Uts	3150	...	...	4.2	∞
160	142½	-do- S/C DP	159½	...	...	...	...
351	230	-do- Vent	351	+9	...	3.9	28.4
93	68	Nwthrng Inc	92	...	6.7	9.3	17.0
378	249	O'seas Inv Tst	378	+9	...	1.0	...
637	285	Pacific Assets	624	+2	1.1	0.2	...
539	187	Do Warrants	528	+1	...	...	...
8550	7650	Personal Assets	8550	-200	19.0	2.8	50.5
184	100	RIT Cap Ptnr	184	+4	1.1	0.8	...
127	108	River & Merc	124	+2	9.2	9.3	12.4
465	350	Robeco	425	+7	...	3.0	...
435	346	Rolinco	430	+5	...	1.8	...
290	214	St Andrew Inv	280	+2	7.5	3.3	30.0
172	131	Scot American	171	+½	...	3.4	36.2
359	136	Scot Asian	355	+2	...	...	...
1050	225	Do Warrants	1050	+7	...	...	...
90	63½	-do- Eastern	90	+2½	1.5	2.1	59.1
246½	183	Scottish	246½	+5½	4.9	2.5	∞
249½	178	-do- Mrtge	249½	+3½	4.0	2.0	64.7
117	71	-do- Value	116½	+1	1.8	1.9	∞
1715	1300	Second Allnce	1715	+27	...	2.8	43.2
100½	74½	Secs Tst of Scot	100½	+4	3.2	4.1	33.1
168	109½	Selective Asset	168	+4	1.2	0.9	60.4
44	14	Sphere Inv	44	+1½	3.1	8.8	14.2
191	112	TR Far East	191	+5	...	3.3	36.4
165	126	TR City Of Lon	165	+1	...	3.6	35.9
232	110	TR Pacific	232	+5	0.3	0.2	...
40½	17	TR Property	40½	+1	0.9	2.8	42.7
134	47	TR Tech Inv	134	+2	1.7	1.6	49.7
202	146	TR Smlr Cos	202	+4½	...	2.4	46.7
391	283	Temple Bar	391	+6	13.2	4.2	29.5
129	69	Thrgtn Asian E	129	+1	0.5	0.5	...
79½	54	Throgmorton	79½	+1½	2.3	3.6	32.5
550	365	Throg Dual Cp	533	+10	...	...	...
349	178	USDC Invest	249	+2	4.5	2.3	45.8
119	76½	Value Inc Tr	119	...	4.0	4.2	29.9
925	542	Whitbread Inv	925	...	16.5	2.2	55.7
244	181	Witan	244	+5	5.6	2.9	42.7

LEISURE

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
482	269	Airtours	477	...	...	2.4	15.0
64	41	Ald Leis	42	...	...	8.9	13.7
465	194	Anglia TV	427	+5	...	2.7	19.8
103	63	Baldwin	86	...	4.6	6.7	11.7
289	192	Barr & W 'A'	269	-5	10.0	4.6	17.4
1243	930	Boosey Hwks	1155	...	22.0	2.4	17.3
158	90	Border TV	149	+6	...	3.1	13.3
16½	4	Brent Walker	6	+½	...	...	...
150	48	Bristol Scots	115	...	...	...	...
9	2½	Buckingham Int	6	+½	...	...	...
292	67	Campari	69	...	...	8.7	15.0
324	171	Capital Radio	324	+21	5.7	2.2	∞
960	718	Carlton Comm	940	+23	...	2.5	22.1
248	158	Castle Comm	246	...	...	4.3	16.3
2908	1615	Central TV	2908	+63	39.0	1.7	31.7
124	61	Chrysalis	115	+2	3.2	3.6	...
668	470	Compass Gp	668	+17	...	2.4	18.4
350	175	Eurocamp	231	-3	9.7	5.3	9.5
1180	268	Euro Disney	373	-22	...	3.1	...
8	1½	Euro Leisure	2½	+½	...	...	...
38½	18	Ex-Lands	35½	...	...	1.2	...
390	245	Fairline Boats	306	+5	10.5	4.4	∞
378	232	First Leisure	283	+3	6.2	2.8	19.6
678	298	GWR Gp	678	...	...	1.7	∞
246	149	Grampian	229	+2	6.5	3.5	15.9
22	4½	Greenwich Comm	15	...	...	...	...
109	19	HTV Group	105½	+1½	...	...	46.9
76	30	Hi-Tec Sports	62	...	...	4.5	...
12½	5½	Kunick	10½	+½	...	...	...
623	405	LWT Hldgs	623	+15	...	1.0	28.8
600	327	Man Utd	535	+2	...	4.6	21.6
48	7½	Northern	37½	-½	...	...	...
148	59	Owners Abrd	81	+1	3.9	6.0	6.5
77	33	The Pelican Gp	71	...	...	1.9	16.6
178	55	Prism Leisure	178	+7	...	2.3	16.5
42	16	Quadrant Grp	36	...	...	...	...
405	274	Radio Clyde	405	+4	...	3.0	∞
208	132	Ramsdens (H)	205	...	...	2.7	27.2
553	430	Scot TV	455	-3	10.3	2.8	22.4
68	37	Southern Radio	63	+2	1.2	2.5	∞
300	168	Stanley Leisure	300	+14	4.3	1.8	23.7
10	5½	Sunleigh	8	...	...	...	...
145	115	Sunset & Vine	129	...	3.5	3.4	19.5
400	345½	Tanjong	345½	...	...	0.5	18.9
2½	1	Ticketing	2½	...	...	...	...
117	84	Tottenhm Hot	97	...	...	2.6	5.1
80	44	Trans World	85	...	...	1.2	31.0
518	274	Ulster TV	518	-10	12.0	2.9	15.9
113	62	Vardon	113	...	0.8	0.9	26.7
22	11	Wembley	17	+½	...	...	...
234	110	Yorkshire TV	151	...	12.0	9.9	4.6
120	83	Zetters Gp	113	...	8.0	8.8	12.8

MINING

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
5950	1800	Am Gold	5750	-34½	...	3.8	29.2
1625	1018½	Ang Am Coal	1543½	...	...	5.9	8.2
2687½	1125	Ang Am	2562½	...	...	2.2	26.2
33	8½	Anglo Pac Res	29½	...	...	...	...
197	33	Blyvoors	178	+2	...	...	...
46	18	Bracken	33	-1	...	...	...
871	233	Buffels	775	-2	...	8.2	7.0
2½	1	Bute	2½	...	...	...	...
802	546	CRA	790	+11	...	2.5	27.2
43½	11	Cluff Res	36	...	...	...	...
1612½	762½	De Beers	1443½	-15½	...	3.4	19.9
165	37½	Deelkraal	120	...	...	2.4	13.8
96	7	Doornfontein	55	-9	...	...	...
913	388	Driefontein	837	+5	...	3.8	16.5
788	120	Durban	715	-20	...	...	...
201	47	E Rand Gold	135	-1	...	7.9	4.2
175	35	E Rand Prop	87	-1	...	...	...
65	16	Eastern Trans	55	...	...	...	...
604	117	Elandsrand	395	...	...	4.5	11.8
1108	282	FS Cons	1036	-10	...	3.0	9.7
80	8	FS Dev	50	+4	...	4.6	13.6
1675	725	GFSA	1500	-4	...	...	...
128	62½	Gencor	127	...	...	2.6	28.0
64½	35½	GM Kalgoorli	56½	...	...	6.9	14.4
22½	5	Greenwich R 'A'	14	-2½	...	2.4	23.1
187	49	Grootvlei	143	+½	...	...	...
360	78	Harmony	340	-1	...	7.0	8.9
425	87	Hartles	356	-1	...	...	...
16½	8½	Incon	15	-5	...	7.7	14.1
1010	491	Impala Plat	866	...	...	3.2	29.9
13½	6	Kenmare Res	10½	...	...	...	...
1177	332	Kinross	1149	-6	...	4.9	∞
913	319	Kloof	762	-14	...	3.1	10.7
137	25	Leslie	112	...	...	9.3	∞
359	13	Loraine	320	-1	...	...	...
950	620	Lydenburg	950	...	...	2.1	∞
116½	80	MIM	116½	+4	...	1.9	56.8
1488	820	Minorco	1381	+8	...	2.8	16.3
164½	91	Nth Bkn Hill	156	-1½	...	3.1	25.7
2812½	612½	Orange Free	2650	+12½	...	6.3	21.4
786	607	RTZ	786	+11	...	3.1	22.2
212½	109½	Rand Mines	212½	+56½	...	5.1	∞
680	150	Randfontein	666	+6	...	6.1	10.0
224	115	Renison	224	+2	...	1.9	23.2
1200	850	Rustnbrg	1187½	...	...	2.7	∞
725	191	St Helena	664	+14	...	3.6	14.0
2168	475	Southvaal	2106	-9	...	2.7	38.5
119	18	Stilfontein	86	-1	...	7.0	16.1
201	58	Unisel	139	...	...	4.8	∞
6600	1800	Vaal Reefs	6300	-100	...	3.4	11.4
730	154	Welkom	690	+5	...	6.2	21.6
640	26	Western Areas	583	-5	...	4.4	18.6
3150	587½	Western Deep	3012½	+9½	...	2.0	14.7
310	176	Wstrn Mining	310	...	...	1.5	...
1112	323	Winkels	1049	-4	...	3.6	∞
84	49	Zambia Copper	57	...	...	...	...
68	18	Zandpan	68	...	...	6.4	22.7

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
258	233	Abbey Panels	233	-20	...	...	...
135	95	Airflow Stream	115	...	3.0	3.3	11.1
153	78	Appleyard	140	...	...	4.6	...
335	203	Bletchley Mtr	325	+5	...	3.5	16.5
192	120	Boxtrom	180	...	6.0	4.2	31.8
468	165	Br Aerospace	403	-10	7.3	2.3	...
58	19½	Burndene	50	...	1.7	4.5	∞
425	303	Caffyns	405 †	+10	11.5	3.5	21.4
15	4½	Caverdale	13½	-½	...	...	...
143	98	Central Mtrs	123	...	...	4.1	31.3
36	18	Cook (DC)	35 †	...	...	3.2	10.9
282	156	Cowie (T)	282	+4	6.6	2.9	21.5
141	86	Dag Motors	135	...	5.7	5.3	24.4
155	102½	Davnprt Vern	145	...	...	3.5	18.3
330	155	ERF	276	-19	2.0	0.9	...
145	92	European Mtr	138	+1	...	3.4	19.4
409	208	Evans Halshaw	407	...	11.4	3.5	62.7
250	211	FR Group	235	...	...	3.8	10.9
4393½	2843½	Ford Motor	4393½	+43½	...	...	...
3756½	2143½	General Mtr	3725	+37½	...	1.4	...
75	38	Gowrings	60	...	2.0	4.2	...
275	85	Henlys	274	...	3.5	1.6	...
1056	769	Honda Motor	899	...	...	1.0	...
36	15	Jacks (Wm)	35	...	...	...	...
108	66	Jessups	86	...	4.5	6.5	...
176	97	Kwik-Fit	158½	...	...	2.8	22.4
448	281	Lex Service	447	+2	...	3.2	24.4
164	85	Lookers	162	+1	6.2	4.8	...
196	126	Lucas	194	+5	...	4.5	...
27½	21	Malaya Grp	25	+½	...	...	...
284	224½	Pendragon	261	+1	...	3.1	21.4
190	101½	Perry Gp	175	+4	...	5.1	...
190	108	Quicks Group	156	+1	...	3.8	19.9
177	96½	Rolls-Royce	165	+3½	...	3.8	...
223	164	T & N	205	+8	...	6.6	28.2
263	163	Trinity Hldgs	263 †	+4	...	2.6	24.6
175	125	Vardy (Reg)	163	...	...	3.2	22.8
253	121	Westland	252	...	4.5	2.3	∞

NEWS, PUBLISHERS

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
198	103	Adscene	198	...	5.0	3.2	20.3
360	315	Black (A&C)	335	...	13.5	5.0	13.7
608	290	Blenheim Gp	308	...	...	3.8	11.5
370	275	Bristol	367 †	+2	...	4.1	33.1
£116½	7775	Daily Mail	£113	...	...	1.7	26.1
£116½	7700	Daily Mail 'A'	£112½	...	...	1.7	26.0
355	210	Dorling Kind	262	...	...	1.6	23.7
6350	4337½	Elsevier	6350	+112½	...	1.5	21.5
425	322	EMAP	425	+9	...	2.4	26.2
1525	873	Euromoney Pb	1443 †	-7	...	3.3	25.4
264	170	Harrington K	172	...	4.7	3.4	14.1
328	155½	Haynes Pub	328	...	...	2.0	18.5
363	334	Hodder H'line	340	...	5.1	1.9	28.9
140	99	Home Counts	120	-10	5.2	5.5	...
161	30	Intl Bus Comm	161	+1	...	...	23.3
14	6½	Int Cm & Dam	13½	...	...	...	...
435	240	Independent	410	...	...	3.1	22.1
580	395	Johnstne Press	548	+5	6.5	1.5	23.7
338	243	Metal Bulletin	338	...	8.2	3.0	23.9
186	88	Mirror Gp	170	...	...	...	...
515	207	News Corp	422	-4	...	0.3	...
301	169	News Intl	274	+2	...	0.6	16.9
618	342	Pearson	602	+2	...	2.5	32.7
675	510	Portsmth Sund	670	...	...	1.8	18.5
908	618	Reed Int	908	+18	...	2.4	34.6
185	98	Southnews	183	...	...	1.6	34.2
171	90	Sterling Pub	160	...	...	2.4	19.4
487	313	Telegraph	487	+1	...	3.1	20.5
835	715	Thomson Corp	795	...	30.1	4.7	39.7
434	313	Trinity Intl	434	+4	9.0	2.6	26.0
39	21	Unit Group	21	...	...	...	...
645	480½	Utd Nwspapr	645	+5	...	4.2	17.9

OILS, GAS

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
37	17	Aran Energy	26½	+1	...	...	28.8
61	33	Arcon Intl	36	...	...	...	...
71	41½	Aus Oil & Gas	59	-1	...	...	...
83	26	Aviva Pet	57	-2	...	...	...
16	3½	Beverley	8	+3½	...	...	79.5
223	143	Br Borneo	201	...	7.1	4.4	6.1
361½	276	British Gas	336½	+3	14.2	5.3	16.3
363	225	Br Petroleum	360	+5	8.4	2.9	28.3
2	1	Bula Resources	1½	...	...	...	...
834	675	Burmah Castl	826	+1	...	3.8	19.3
68	32	Cairn Energy	58	+1	...	...	8.0
317	223	Calor Gp	316	...	...	4.7	17.2
60½	32½	Clyde Pet	46½	+½	...	...	...
44	27	Conlex Res	31	+1	...	...	...
23½	10½	Edin Oil & Gas	17	...	...	...	...
521	397	Enterprise	446	-2	...	4.5	24.5
88	26	Exp Co Louis	28	...	...	...	...
34½	18½	Fairhaven Intl	22½	...	...	...	...
10½	4	Fortune	4½	...	...	4.8	8.1
67	45	Goal Pet	54	+½	1.4	3.2	10.3
48	18	Gt Western Res	31	...	...	...	...
181	104½	Hardy O & G	155	+2	...	0.8	14.4
46	18½	Kelt Energy	40	...	...	...	...
195	97	LASMO	118	+4	...	3.5	23.9
103	63	-do- Units	69	+1	9.4	17.1	...
24	2	Mid Scot Res	2½	+½	...	...	...
56½	34	Monument	55½	...	...	...	...
9½	4	New London	4½	...	...	...	...
33	21	Nth Sea Assets	29	...	1.0	4.3	10.0
42	27	Oil Search	41	-1	...	...	...
19½	11½	Petrox	16	+1	...	...	...
162	99	Pict Pet	153	...	...	...	...
29½	18	Premier	22½	+½	...	...	8.3
168	50	Presidio	158	...	...	...	...
410	290	Ranger	323	+3	...	4.2	...
7312½	5150	Royal Dtch Pl	7125	+175	...	5.0	...
4500	3600	Schlumberger	3875	-12½	...	4.3	17.7
67	47	Seafield	58	...	...	2.1	...
727	515	Shell	719	+6½	22.8	4.0	22.1
203	173	Sunrise Eng Sv	185	...	...	...	...
41	15	Triton Europe	18	...	...	...	...
19½	6	Villers Grp	14	...	...	...	...
209	135	Woodside	178	-½	...	3.0	...

PAPER, PRINT, ADVTG

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
164	120	AG Holdings	164 †	...	...	4.0	14.9
418	249	API	418 †	...	8.2	2.5	∞
259	144	Arjo Wiggins	240	-5	...	3.4	38.8
543	408	Abbot Mead	540	-2	9.5	2.2	28.4
40	13	Aegis Gp	17	...	...	...	...
212	118	Aspen Comm	145	...	...	4.2	13.2
20	7	BBB Design	18	...	...	...	...
430	234½	Bemrose	429	...	...	3.6	18.8
30½	7	Birkdale	8½	...	...	...	...
155	118	Bunzl	145	-1	4.0	3.4	21.9
332	257	CIA Gp	352	+5	...	1.6	22.2
170	93	Capital Inds	130	...	...	3.5	12.4
92	44	City of Lon	84 †	...	...	5.7	15.5
304	169	Cropper (James)	304	...	3.2	1.3	29.4
95	51	Delyn Group	89	...	1.6	2.3	12.0
120	94	Dolphin Pack	105	...	4.5	5.4	25.9
87	42	Dudley Jenkins	77	...	...	5.0	17.5
16½	10½	Elswick	15½	-½	...	2.5	17.1
74	41	Fairway Group	73	...	3.2	5.6	21.5
361	271	Ferguson Intl	361	+10	...	4.3	16.3
137	92	Ferry Pick	137	...	...	5.1	37.0
194	74	Filofax	194	+10	...	1.0	25.0
20	10½	Fitch	11½	...	...	...	...
154	69	Gibbon Lyons	141 †	...	...	4.6	15.9
295	205	Gold Greenless	206	...	8.4	5.2	18.3
41	17	Goodhead	23	...	0.0	0.3	∞
88	19	Hunterprint	25	...	...	...	...
185	136	Intereurope	161	...	...	6.1	11.8
278	191	Jarvis Porter	273	+1	...	2.2	25.5
32	15½	Lopex	22	...	...	...	...
38½	26	MMI	34½	...	...	...	...
357	175	More O'Ferrall	357	+7	13.2	4.6	42.7
133	48	NMC Group	124	+6½	2.7	2.8	19.1
233	66	Osborne & Little	230 †	...	...	2.8	25.3
525	455	Portals	510	+10	...	3.6	17.6
3½	1½	Premier Hlth	2	...	...	...	...
286	159	Quarto	286	+5	...	2.5	17.6
347	270	St Ives Gp	320	+1	...	2.1	21.1
186	134	Saatchi	135	-1	...	...	...
474	292	Sappi	392	-6	...	8.3	7.5
24	8½	Serif	18 †	...	...	...	...
32½	14	Shandwick	22	...	...	...	...
400	294	Smith David	400	+5	...	3.1	21.0
295	206	Smurfit (Jeff)	288	...	...	1.8	6.9
100	45	Somic	100 †	...	2.5	3.1	41.0
246	183	Stat-Plus	210	...	8.4	5.0	18.7
29½	16½	Taylor Nelson	26½	...	0.3	1.6	22.0
125	38	VTR	125	+2	...	3.8	18.8
106	40	WPP	92	+1	...	1.4	3.5
183	62	Wace	183	+7	...	0.7	...
265	203	Waddington (J)	244	+3	...	4.1	18.3
418	270	Watmough	415	-1	...	1.8	32.5
7	3½	Westport	3½	...	...	...	...
34	12	Whitney Mck	29	...	...	...	...
95	55	Wyndeham	95	+1	...	2.0	20.2

PROPERTY

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
116	41	Allied Lon	109	...	...	4.0	28.3
47	35	Arcadian	36	...	...	...	...
16½	4½	Ascot Hldgs	6	+½	...	...	...
135	52	Asda	134	...	...	2.0	14.1
152	88	Avonside	146	...	4.1	3.5	20.4
2637½	2062½	BCE	2275	+25	...	...	...
670	396	Bilton	658	...	18.9	3.6	23.8
83	17	Bourne End	73 †	...	...	1.7	...
240	150	Bradford	237	...	5.9	3.1	24.0
23	5	Bredero	12½	...	...	...	...
449	166½	Br Land	433	+1	...	2.1	39.2
250	140½	Brixton	235	-1	...	4.5	18.6
96½	42	Burford	96½	+3½	...	1.7	...
188	99	Cap & Regnl	188	...	...	0.9	...
230	120	Cardiff Prop	230	...	2.4	1.3	...
595	196	Chesterfield	595	+1	11.5	2.4	42.6
43	12	City Site Ests	36	...	...	...	...
35	12	Clarke Nickolls	34	...	...	...	...
548	285	Compco	285	...	12.9	6.0	61.8
53	34	Conrad Rhtz GS	44	...	...	...	...
1465	818	Daejan	1458	...	...	2.3	18.0
3½	½	Dares Estates	½	...	...	...	...
130	53	Debenhm Twsn	130	...	...	2.9	25.3
12	4	De Morgan	10	+1	...	...	...
180	76	Dencora	177	+2	3.0	2.1	...
666	263	Derwent Hldgs	664	...	8.7	1.6	...
45	10	Development Sec	34½	+1	...	...	...
56	24	Dwyer	5½ †	...	...	...	...
400	170	Estates Agency	400	...	...	2.4	47.5
27	7½	Estates Gen	18	+½	...	...	...
216	132	Evans Of Leeds	214 †	...	...	2.8	18.9
35½	11	Five Oaks	33	...	...	...	...
67	30	Fletcher King	66	...	1.0	1.9	43.4
515	226½	Frogmore	498	...	...	4.0	24.0
237	97	Grainger	228	...	5.2	2.9	∞
233	116½	Gr Portland	222	...	...	4.5	21.2
18½	3½	Greycoat	18	...	...	...	...
224	101	HK Land	222	-½	...	2.9	29.2
84	35	Hambro Cntyw	75	...	0.5	0.8	...
422	233	Hammerson	415	+2	10.0	3.0	42.0
299	127	Helical Bar	298	...	...	2.1	10.7
39	19	Hemingway	36	...	...	...	...
132	56	Herring Baker	60	...	3.7	7.8	15.1
153	133	Jermyn	138	...	...	...	...
801	435	Land Sec	787	...	23.1	3.7	23.5
114	73	Lon Merch Sec	107	-1	4.0	4.7	16.5
22½	8½	Lon & Metro	11	...	...	...	...
565	315½	MEPC	550 †	-1	...	4.5	38.7
9	5	McInerney A	6½	...	...	...	...
164	90	McKay Secs	164	+4	3.5	2.7	22.5
7½	2½	Markheath	2½	...	...	...	...
81	12	Merivale Mre	80	...	...	...	...
53	29	Moorfield Est	53	...	...	...	...
1300	775	Mountview	1205	...	22.0	2.3	12.5
176	112	Mucklow (A&J)	176	+1	...	4.3	27.4
50	30	Olives Prop	50	...	...	...	...
10½	1½	Osprey Est	1½	...	...	...	0.4
172	88	PSIT	166	+1	4.1	3.1	32.9
361	138	Peel	359	...	4.0	1.4	...
16	4½	Power Corp	6½	...	...	...	...
48	22	Property Trust	42	...	...	...	12.0
63	33	Raglan	40	...	...	...	...
48	11	Regalian	30	+½	...	...	...
140	110	Rowlinson Secs	140 †	...	1.5	1.3	17.5
50	16	St Modwen Prp	48	...	0.9	2.3	36.6
96	39	Savills	91	...	...	1.4	36.0
112	33½	Scot Met	102	...	...	1.8	∞
118	39	Shaftesbury	118	+1	...	...	...
15½	5	Shield	11½	+½	...	...	6.0
280	139½	Slough Estates	279	-3	...	3.6	19.5
101	56	Southend Prop	98	...	...	3.1	...
39	16	Stanhope Prps	25½	...	...	...	...
226	114	Tops Ests	225	...	2.1	1.2	80.0
137	79	Town Centre	133	...	...	3.2	23.8
98	43	Trafford Park	97	...	...	3.6	22.3
56	17	UK Land	31	+½	...	...	...
12	4	Union Square	9½	...	...	...	...
309	180	Warner	293	...	10.4	4.4	26.8
219	168	Warnford	218	...	7.5	4.4	15.8
8	2	Wateglade	2½	...	...	...	...
95	34	Wates	90½	+½	...	...	...
83	40	Wood John D	82	...	...	...	...

SHOES, LEATHER

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
29	11	Automagic	29	...	...	...	...
198	84	Headlam	198	+2	...	1.9	44.7
500	285	Lambert	315	...	13.2	5.3	7.7
100	44	Pittards	61	...	1.5	3.1	17.4
30	20	Strong & Fisher	22	...	1.0	5.7	6.1
228	89	Stylo	227	...	...	1.7	...
66	53	UK Safety	57	...	...	5.7	1.9

TEXTILES

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
521	408	Allied Text	513	+3	12.7	3.1	16.5
69	54	Beckman (A)	56	...	3.5	8.0	∞
41	21	Bolton Gp	27	...	...	...	...
176	141	Br Mohair	176	+5	8.5	6.0	16.5
53	15	Chartwell	38	...	...	...	...
364	298	Claremont Gn	340	...	7.5	2.8	21.2
601	453	Courtauld Tex	453	-6	13.9	3.8	12.4
53½	24½	Cupid	25	...	...	...	...
248½	130	Dawson	136 †	...	...	7.0	10.4
47	22	Drummond	35	...	...	...	...
89	65	Faupel	80	...	...	7.8	12.1
34	15	Foster (John)	25	...	...	...	...
133	82	Gaskell	114	...	4.2	4.7	...
235	156	Hicking Pntcst	235 †	+1	...	2.2	16.7
90	45	Jerome (S)	68	...	...	0.4	...
422	249	Lamont	395	...	12.0	3.8	26.1
515	353½	Leeds	506 †	+1	8.5	2.1	∞
64	15	Lister	53	...	0.1	0.2	...
122	73	Lyles (S)	89	...	...	4.6	...
215	89	Magellan	209	...	1.4	0.8	...
214	77½	Parkland	191	...	...	1.1	...
102½	82	Readicut	96½	-½	...	4.5	18.1
66	35	SEET	53	...	...	...	...
147	72	Sirdar	130	...	...	5.1	9.0
72	44	Stirling Gp	62	...	1.9	3.8	17.3
51	35	Stoddard	35	-1	...	5.4	32.5
312	250	Tomkinsons	275	-2	11.5	5.2	∞
59	30½	West Trust	37 †	-1	...	9.1	...
250	126	Yorklyde	248	...	...	2.7	16.3

TOBACCOS

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
541	407	BAT	539½	-5	...	4.4	16.2

TRANSPORT

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
543	349	Assoc Br Ports	542	+2	...	2.0	...
1041	707	BAA	1041	+17	...	2.0	25.8
485	249	Br Airways	451	...	...	3.0	20.2
113	56	Clarkson (H)	108	-3	1.7	2.0	...
552	332	Eurotunnel Uts	546	-4	...	...	...
82	44	Fisher (James)	73	...	0.5	0.9	19.6
255	147	IoM Steam	253	...	...	4.2	13.3
38	24	Jacobs (JI)	36	+1	0.5	1.6	...
107	41	Lon O'Seas Frts	99	...	...	1.3	18.1
475	264	Mersey Docks	444	-1	...	2.5	30.2
271	181	Natl Express	247	...	...	3.6	25.5
272	218	NFC	230	+1	...	3.8	17.8
343	244	Ocean Group	333	+2	...	5.4	...
73	40	Ocean Wilson	71	...	4.0	7.0	12.9
676	504	P & O Dfd	655	+9	...	5.8	35.5
194	127	P & O 5 1/2%	166	...	...	4.2	...
632	448	Powell Duffryn	632	+6	...	4.5	20.0
233	117	Seacon	233	+2	...	2.9	14.7
163	112	Stagecoach	154 †	+1	...	3.1	18.8
81½	31½	TNT	73½	-1½	...	...	...
818	624	Tibbet & Britn	813	...	12.6	1.9	31.2
382	37	Tiphook	56	+1	...	...	...
298	227	TDG	282	+7	...	4.2	9.3

WATER

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
610	455	Anglian Water	608	+13½	...	4.4	12.1
347	244	Mid Kent Hldgs	345 †	...	...	3.9	12.7
761	547	Northumbrian	741	+4	...	3.9	8.7
604	431½	North West	596 †	+11	...	4.6	9.0
632	439	Severn Trent	618 †	+12	...	4.4	9.6
682	454	Sthn Water	682	+14	...	4.1	10.8
1605	1225	Sth Staffs	1525	...	48.5	4.0	10.9
657	465	South West	644	-8	...	4.7	10.6
598	454	Thames Water	583	+2	...	4.6	11.4
735	506	Welsh Water	721 †	+4	...	4.2	7.3
740	536	Wessex Water	740	+20	...	3.8	11.6
630	473½	Yorkshire W	620 †	+7	...	4.6	10.3

Source: Finstat

▲ USM; # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; † Ex rights issue; ‡ Ex all; # Ex capital distribution; ∞ Figures or report awaited; ... No significant data.

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1993 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
102	100	Treas 8½% 1994	100	-	8.48	5.41
109	101	Treas 14½% 1994	101	-	14.27	5.32
109	102	Exch 13½% 1994	102	-	13.15	5.25
105	102	Treas 10% 1994	102	-	9.79	5.04
110	104	Exch 12½% 1994	104	-	11.94	5.01
105	103	Treas 9% 1994	103	-	8.70	5.01
111	107	Treas 12% 1995	107 †	-	11.19	5.00
97	94	Gas 3% 1990-95	97	...	3.06	4.62
109	107	Exch 10¼% 1995	107	-	9.51	5.05
116	113	Treas 12¾% 1995	113	-	11.22	5.05
120	116	Treas 14% 1996	117 †	...	11.95	5.13
125	121	Treas 15¼% 1996	121	...	12.51	5.19
120	115	Exch 13¼% 1996	117	-	11.25	5.20
112	108	Conv 10% 1996	112	...	8.92	5.37
122	118	Treas 13¼% 1997	121 †	...	10.89	5.48
114	110	Exch 10½% 1997	114	+	9.20	5.51
110	107	Treas 8¾% 1997	110	+	7.93	5.57
132	127	Exch 15% 1997	131	+	11.40	5.69
114	109	Exch 9¾% 1998	114 †	+	8.52	5.68
106	99	Treas 7¼% 1998	106	+	6.84	5.62
105	101	Treas 7¼% B 1998	105	+	6.84	5.63
102	97	Treas 6¾% 1995-98	102	...	6.62	5.20
131	125	Treas 14% 1998-01	131	+	10.68	5.86
140	133	Treas 15½% 1998	139	+	11.07	5.75
126	118	Exch 12% 1998	125	+	9.55	5.87
116	108	Treas 9½% 1999	115xd	+	8.20	5.82

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

1993 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
101	98	Treas 6% 1999	101	+	6.05	5.76
128	120	Exch 12¼% 1999	127	+	9.58	5.96
121	112	Treas 10½% 1999	121	+	8.68	5.88
121	112	Conv 10¼% 1999	121	+	8.47	5.95
116	106	Conv 9% 2000	115	+	7.77	5.90
136	125	Treas 13% 2000	136xd	+	9.53	6.15
108	97	Treas 7% 2001	105	+	6.89	6.06
122	109	Treas 10% 2001	121	+	8.22	6.20
123	108	Treas 9¾% 2002	122	+	7.95	6.31
113	97	Treas 8% 2003	112	+	7.09	6.17
126	109	Treas 10% 2003	126	+	7.91	6.31
129	116	Treas 11½% 2001-04	129	+	8.91	6.41
85	67	Fund 3½% 1999-04	85xd	+	4.10	5.32
104	97	Treas 6¾% 2004	104	+	6.46	6.17
125	105	Conv 9½% 2004	124	+	7.63	6.32
125	105	Conv 9½% 2005	124	+	7.61	6.37
143	124	Treas 12½% 2003-05	142	+	8.75	6.54
111	94	Treas 8% 2002-06	110	+	7.21	6.34
112	94	Treas 7¾% 2006	111	+	6.93	6.37
138	118	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	135 †	+	8.68	6.51
119	97	Treas 8½% 2007	118 †	+	7.17	6.43
151	131	Treas 13½% 2004-08	150	+	8.95	6.58
124	101	Treas 9% 2008	123	+	7.27	6.46

LONGS (over 15 years)

1993 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
115	92	Treas 8% 2009	114	+	6.97	6.48
126	100	Conv 9% 2011	125xd	+	7.15	6.50
127	100	Treas 9% 2012	126	+	7.11	6.50
93	70	Treas 5½% 2008-12	93	+	5.90	6.12
114	89	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	114 †	+	6.80	6.42
117	93	Treas 8% 2013	116	+	6.85	6.47
158	125	Exch 12% 2013-17	158	+	7.58	6.67
127	97	Treas 8¾% 2017	127	+	6.88	6.48

UNDATED

1993 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
53	38	War Ln 3½%	53 †	+	6.53	...
36	27	Treas 2½%	36	+	6.78	...

INDEX-LINKED

1993 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
136	131	Treas IL 2% 1994	136	-	...	...
204	194	Treas IL 2% 1996	203	-	0.90	1.87
113	109	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	113	-	1.19	1.86
179	159	Treas IL 2½% 2001	175	+	2.16	2.54
172	155	Treas IL 2½% 2003	172	+	2.39	2.70
117	105	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	117	+	2.41	2.71
183	159	Treas IL 2% 2006	183 †	+	2.48	2.72
166	144	Treas IL 2½% 2009	166	+	2.66	2.87
174	148	Treas IL 2½% 2011	174	+	2.73	2.92
144	122	Treas IL 2½% 2013	144	+	2.76	2.92
155	130	Treas IL 2½% 2016	155 †	+	2.82	2.98
150	124	Treas IL 2½% 2020	150	+	2.87	3.00
127	102	Treas IL 2½% 2024	127 †	+	2.86	2.98
127	103	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	127 †	+	2.88	3.01

Travado can provide perfect gift

Riding a winner in the big Kempton race is the ideal Christmas present for any jockey, **Jamie Osborne** reveals

As Christmas approaches my thoughts are concentrated towards plans for Kempton Park on racing's "Boxing day". But, before then I have to survive four days with no racing, trying not to be tempted by too much Christmas pudding.

This blank period always creates problems for jockeys who must keep their weight down before the busy Christmas schedule. Luckily, I don't have as much of a problem as most, and this year none of my Boxing day rides is set to carry the minimum weight of ten stone.

While there is no racing until Monday, there is still plenty of work to be done every morning, schooling and working horses for my trainers, Oliver and Simon Sherwood, Henrietta Knight and Charles Egerton, in preparation for races next week. I don't envisage having a morning off — however the thought is appealing.

Two years ago, all I wanted for Christmas was to win the King George VI Chase at Kempton on Remittance Man. This year it is the same, my partner being Travado, the embryonic star of jump racing. There are several similarities between then and now. Both horses were the leading two-mile novices of their generation having won the Arkle Trophy at Cheltenham in the previous season. Like Remittance Man, Travado faces his first chase over three miles, raising doubts over his stamina. And, of course, both are trained by Nicky Henderson, the former champion trainer, whose big-race record speaks for itself.

While both horses have similar credentials, we are hoping for a different result.



Osborne: learnt some valuable lessons two years ago on Remittance Man

Unfortunately the doubts over Remittance Man's stamina were proved correct. After holding an advantage three fences from home he faded to finish third. That has been his only defeat in an outstanding chasing career.

Immediately after the race I blamed myself for his defeat. I probably asked him to do too much too soon. During the race he was travelling so well down the back straight it seemed inconceivable that he would not keep galloping to the line. However I was wrong and, as we approached the last fence, we were passed by The Fellow and Docklands Express and had no response to their challenge. I walked from the course wishing I could go back five minutes and do things slightly differently.

Hindsight is a wonderful thing but split-second decisions cannot be changed and I will never know for sure whether different tactics would have brought a different result.

Now, two years later, I have a chance to re-run the race on a similar horse and this time try to get it right. I am sure Travado will travel with the same ease as his stablemate and jump with the same fluency.

Nicky Henderson knows both horses better than anyone and this year he has found himself mulling over the same thoughts as two years ago. "It's uncanny how both horses have followed the same path to the King George with virtually identical results," he told me.

I braved myself to ask him why he thought Remittance Man was beaten. "I feel there were two factors. First, his lack of match practice: he had only had one run in a two-horse race prior to Kempton and second, we may have used our speed too early in the race."

When he says "we" he is kindly trying not to point the finger at me, but we both know what he means. However, he was quick to add: "I am not blaming you, we had discussed the race before and decided that if you were going well turning in, then to kick and try and poach a lead." Neither of us want it to go wrong again.

The trainer added with an air of confidence: "If anything I think Travado has more of a chance of staying the trip than Remittance Man. There's stamina in his pedigree and he seems to love Kempton. He's won a bumper, two hurdle races and a novice chase around there and that must be in his favour."

Travado is a high-class horse who could be capable of winning the Queen Mother Champion Chase. I was lucky enough to win that race on Remittance Man after his King George defeat and win or lose at Kempton on Monday he will almost certainly follow Remittance Man's route to Cheltenham for the two-mile championship.

So, if Father Christmas fails to turn up with what I want on Monday, I can console myself with the thought that he may only have been delayed and he might turn up in March again.

WINCANTON

THUNDERER
12.40 Myrtilla. 1.10 James The First. 1.40 Flyer's Nap. 2.10 Gay Ruffian. 2.40 Cool And Easy. 3.10 First Command.

GOING: SOFT SIS

12.40 PLEASURE PRINTS FILLIES NOVICES HURDLE (4-Y-O: £2,093: 2m) (15 runners)

1 CHILDHAY MILLIE P Nicholls 10-12 C Maude
2 0-00 FORTUNES COURSE 26 J King 10-12 A Procter (5)
3 050 HOT 'N ROSIE 14 D Gandolfo 10-12 R Farrant (3)
4 IDIOT'S LADY Mrs J Pitman 10-12 I Lawrence
5 50 KRAKATOA 14 A Forte 10-12 M Bosley
6 6-00 LAY IT OFF 23 J G O'Neill 10-12 S Curran (5)
7 0 MYRTILLA 26 A Turnell 10-12 Mr J Rees
8 P ON THE BOOK 18 Mrs S Williams 10-12 R J Beggan
9 0 RAISIN TURF 26 D Nicholson 10-12 R Bellamy
10 60 ROMANY BLUES 24 A Jones 10-12 W McFarland
11 22-0 SLIPMATIC 23 P Jones 10-12 B Powell
12 30-0 STATE LADY 67 A Barrow 10-12 R Davis (3)
13 0 SUZY BLUE 19 T George 10-12 M Hourigan
14 TITAN EMPRESS S Mellor 10-12 S Earle
15 -500 WYJUME 14 J Gifford 10-12 P Hide (3)

2-1 Raisin Turf, 4-1 Myrtilla, 9-2 Idiot's Lady, 11-2 Wyjume, 7-1 Childhay Millie, 8-1 Lay It Off, 10-1 Hot 'N Rose, 12-1 Krakatoa, Slipmatic, 16-1 others.

1.10 HARRY DUFOSEE HANDICAP CHASE (£3,626: 2m) (9)

1 26-F GOLDEN FREEZE 37 (D,G,S) R Lee 11-11-10 P Hide (3)
2 6132 THATS THE LIFE 37 (D,F,G) T George 8-11-7 M Hourigan
3 411F SAILORS LUCK 28 (D,BF,G,S) P Murphy 8-10-11 E Murphy
4 -341 MR FELIX 19 (D,F,G,S) R Champion 7-10-3 R Davis (3)
5 1-P2 DARE SAY 25 (D,F,G,S) R Alner 10-10-2 S Earle
6 3522 JAMES THE FIRST 25 (F,G,S) P Nicholls 5-10-0 C Maude
7 41-1 GALAGAMES 6 (D,G,S) R Buckler 6-10-0 (4ex) R Farrant (3)
8 3/14- MASTER SOUTH LAD 440 (F) W G M Turner 9-10-0 D Skyrme
9 F4/P HIGH IMP 41 (D,F,G,S) P Leach 13-10-0 B Clifford

5-2 Galagames, 7-2 James The First, 9-2 Thats The Life, 5-1 Sailors Luck, 11-2 Mr Felix, 13-2 Dare Say, 9-1 Golden Freeze, 16-1 others.

1.40 WINCANTON GOLD CARD HURDLE (£3,521: 2m 6f) (26)

1 311/ COKENNY BOY 888 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs J Pitman 8-12-0 I Lawrence
2 41-5 LORNA-GAIL 30 (B,S) R Alner 7-11-11 W McFarland
3 21-16 PEATSWOOD 9 (G,S) M Channon 5-11-10 2nd pref
4 61-6 BUONARROTI 16 (G,S) J Old 6-11-6 T Grantham
5 -00P HOLY JOE 23 (C,F,S) A J Wilson 11-11-5 B Clifford
6 46P4 SENDAI 14 (F,G,S) J Gifford 7-11-2 P Hide (3)
7 -111 KABAYIL 20 (G,S) C Egerton 4-10-10 A Procter (5)
8 4212 NED THE HALL 23 (BF,S) K Bailey 5-10-10 2nd pref
9 -250 FOTOEXPRESS 51 (G,S) R Rowe 5-10-9 L Dace (7)
10 2021 NICK THE DREAMER 33 (D,F,G,S) W G M Turner 8-10-5 D Skyrme
11 61-5 ROVULENKA 47 (BF,S) M Pipe 5-10-3 J Lower
12 -131 FAIR BROTHER 14 (G,S) G Balding 7-10-3 R Davis (3)
13 1F-2 HEATHFIELD GALE 28 (BF,F,G) M Pipe 6-10-2 —
14 14/00 ROSITARY 9 (F,S) P Winkworth 10-10-0 C Maude
15 3U-14 BEYOND OUR REACH 23 (D,G) R Hodges 5-10-0 2nd pref
16 2100 SPECIAL ACCOUNT 18 (G,S) C Barwell 7-10-0 R J Beggan
17 1P/6 FLYER'S NAP 17 (S) R Alner 7-10-0 S Earle
18 3122 GRAY'S ELLERGY 14 (G) D Gandolfo 7-10-0 2nd pref
19 1-52 BROUGHTON'S TANGO 16 (F) M Heaton-Ellis 4-10-0 S Keightley
20 1/2 ASWAMEDH 54 (G) P Hobbs 5-10-0 M Hourigan
21 -422 ISLAND JEWEL 12 (S) J Bosley 5-10-0 M Bosley
22 324- SHIMMERING SCARLET 205 (D,F,G) R Buckler 5-10-0 R Farrant (3)
23 -F05 MARIOLINO 12 (D,F,G,S) K Bishop 6-10-0 Mr G Hogan (7)
24 F/ SALMON PRINCE 821 (D,F) C Barwell 7-10-0 A Dicken (5)
25 15/6- FOUR STAR LINE 513 (C,F,S) W G M Turner 8-10-0 T Murphy (7)
26 1426 LITTLE BIG 27 (F,G) C Broad 6-10-0 A Flannigan (7)

5-1 Kabayil, 11-2 Nick The Dreamer, 6-1 Heathfield Gale, 7-1 Fair Brother, 10-1 Rovulenka, 12-1 Aswamedh, Gray's Ellergy, Sendai, 14-1 Broughton's Tango, Flyer's Nap, Island Jewel, 16-1 others.

2.10 MID SEASON CHASE (£7,133: 2m 5f) (6)

1 F-11 BARTON BANK 23 (D,G,S) D Nicholson 7-11-10 2nd pref
2 -221 NEVADA GOLD 25 (D,F,G,S) F Yardley 7-11-6 2nd pref
3 41-2 GAY RUFFIAN 9 (D,G,S) M Pipe 7-11-2 J Lower
4 4121 THATCHER ROCK 14 (CD,F,G,S) P Nicholls 8-11-2 C Maude
5 -210 THE MASTER GUNNER 25 (BF,G,S) K Bailey 9-11-2 R Davis
6 -114 MUDAHIM 16 (D,F,G,S) C Broad 7-10-10 I Lawrence

13-8 Gay Ruffian, 2-1 Thatcher Rock, 5-2 Mudahim, 8-1 The Master Gunner.

2.40 LORD STALBRIDGE MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE (£4,536: 3m 1f 110yd) (5)

1 2/111 SEE MORE INDIANS 17 (D,F,G,S) P Nicholls 6-11-10 2nd pref
2 2P-5 AUCTION LAW 65 (D,F,G,S) D Barons 9-11-7 R Davis (3)
3 14-0U GLOVE PUPPET 12 (G) G Balding 8-10-4 B Clifford
4 4-31 COOL AND EASY 18 (G,S) J Gifford 7-10-1 P Hide (3)
5 -140 UNDER OFFER 12 (B,CD,G,S) J King 12-10-0 Mr C Hancock (7)

6-4 Cool And Easy, 9-4 Auction Law, 3-1 Glove Puppet, 6-1 Under Offer.

3.10 STIRRUP CUP NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,250: 2m) (13)

1 0-32 KEEP ME IN MIND 14 N Mitchell 4-12-0 D Skyrme
2 /00 ORUJO 30 Miss H Knight 5-11-10 R Marley
3 5-02 MR JERVIS 26 J Gifford 4-11-4 P Hide (3)
4 02/1 JUMP START 24 (G) S Pike 6-11-3 A Dicken (5)
5 P-30 FIRST COMMAND 21 T Forster 6-11-2 R Farrant (3)
6 260 SHIRLEY'S TRAIN 18 (B) P Hobbs 4-11-1 N Parker (7)
7 4516 FRANKUS 23 (F,G) S Mellor 4-10-7 S Earle
8 -605 DUNNICKS VIEW 40 F Tucker 4-10-1 C Maude
9 P0P ANDARE 25 S Mellor 4-10-0 A Procter (5)
10 F6-0 MARY'S MUSIC 24 P Leach 5-10-0 M Hourigan
11 6-P5 LUCKY BLUE 24 (BF) R Hodges 6-10-0 T Thompson (7)
12 0-R0 CORPUS 18 R Hodges 4-10-0 I Lawrence
13 0-00 EARLY STAR 46 K Bishop 4-10-0 Mr G Hogan (7)

7-4 Jump Start, 7-2 Mr Jervis, 6-1 Keep Me In Mind, 7-1 Dunnicks View, 10-1 Frankus, 12-1 First Command, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mrs J Pitman, 21 winners from 60 runners, 35.0%; M Pipe, 33 from 114, 28.9%; D Nicholson, 13 from 55, 23.6%; A Turnell, 10 from 45, 22.2%; R Alner, 4 from 19, 21.1%; T Forster, 10 from 65, 15.4%.

JOCKEYS: J Lower, 8 winners from 22 rides, 36.4%; M Hourigan, 7 from 25, 28.0%; E Murphy, 4 from 29, 13.8%; R Farrant, 3 from 23, 13.0%; C Maude, 7 from 65, 10.8%. Only qualifiers.

MARKET RASEN

THUNDERER
12.55 What If. 1.30 Precipice Run. 2.00 Big Mac. 2.30 Loch Garanne. 3.05 All Jeff. 3.35 Indian River.

GOING: SOFT

12.55 BBC RADIO LINCOLNSHIRE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,026: 2m 1f 110yd) (15 runners)

1 6P-0 WHAT IF 10 (CD,BF,F,G,S) O Brennan 9-11-10 M Brennan
2 35-0 BALLYLORD 28 (G,S) J J O'Neill 9-11-10 S Smith Eccles
3 32-0 COMEDY RIVER 14 (G) J Spearing 6-11-5 D Byrne
4 /634 IMMORTAL IRISH 39 (C,F) J Cresswell 8-11-1 Gary Lyons
5 00/51 GREENACRES LAD 10 (S) J Eyre 10-11-0 A Mulholland
6 5/PU RUN OF WELD 25 (G) F Yardley 10-10-9 L O'Hara
7 4040 PHALAROPE 18 (G) O Brennan 5-10-9 Mr A Walton
8 -603 TRISTAN'S COMET 18 (G) J Harris 6-10-7 —
9 02-3 CORLY SPECIAL 12 (F) K Burke 6-10-6 A Carroll
10 3004 ELDER PRINCE 10 (B,F,S) Ronald Thompson 7-10-4 W Worthington
11 5FP- POINT TAKEN 247 K Morgan 6-10-0 A S Smith
12 -024 LOXLEY RANGE 14 (BF,S) R Juckes 5-10-0 N Juckes (7)
13 PP0U HADLEIGHS CHOICE 18 J Mooney 6-10-0 Miss R Judge
14 00-6 HELLO VANOS 82 C Beever 5-10-0 2nd pref
15 0046 ALIZARI 10 (B) J Mooney 4-10-0 M Robinson

9-2 Greenacres Lad, 5-1 Tristan's Comet, 6-1 Comedy River, 8-1 Immortal Irish, Corly Special, 10-1 What If, 12-1 Elder Prince, Loxley Range, 16-1 Alizari, Phalarope, 20-1 others.

1.30 GENERAL SECURITY DEVELOPMENT NOVICES CHASE (£2,975: 2m 4f) (9)

1 -3213 SHEILAS HILLCREST 38 (S) N Mason 7-11-11 J Supple (5)
2 /PU5 CALDECOTT 7 Mrs S Smith 7-11-5 Mr C Mulhall
3 30-4 HIGHLY DECORATED 10 (G) Mrs S Smith 8-11-5 Gary Lyons
4 P6-5 IRISH BAY 23 (F,G,S) C Egerton 7-11-5 D Byrne
5 P KINGLY LOOK 27 C Beever 6-11-5 Mr K Green
6 5-53 PETMER 18 (S) K Burke 6-11-5 —
7 1-34 PRECIPICE RUN 11 (G,S) G Richards 8-11-5 S Smith Eccles
8 P40- SOLO BUCK 296 Mrs V Aconley 7-11-0 C Woodall (7)
9 U-23 SPOONHILL WOOD 24 (B,BF) J Wharton 7-11-0 2nd pref

6-4 Precipice Run, 4-1 Irish Bay, 5-1 Highly Decorated, 7-1 Sheilas Hillcrest, 10-1 Petmer, 20-1 others.

2.00 BRUCE CARR MEMORIAL TROPHY (Novices handicap chase: £3,066: 3m 1f) (8)

1 1152 DEEP DECISION 23 (C,G) P Cheesbrough 7-11-10 2nd pref
2 0P01 PLAYFUL JULIET 10 (V,G,S) T Caldwell 5-11-0 Pat Caldwell
3 3462 SUPPOSIN 9 Mrs S Smith 5-10-10 Gary Lyons
4 660-4 BIG MAC 23 (F) M Hammond 6-10-10 S Smith Eccles
5 2-45 IRISH GENT 52 (F) P Cheesbrough 7-10-8 M Brennan
6 -P04 GUTE NACHT 10 S Campion 10-10-2 2nd pref
7 4364 ON CUE 16 (B) M Chapman 6-10-1 W Worthington
8 FP5F CANTGETOUT 45 C Pinney 7-10-0 Mr A Pickering

7-4 Playful Juliet, 3-1 Supposin, 7-2 Big Mac, 8-1 Irish Gent, 12-1 On Cue, 20-1 others.

2.30 KILVINGTON HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,626: 2m 3f 110yd) (12)

1 /43-0 SPROWSTON BOY 39 (F,G,S) M Chapman 10-12-0 C Burnett-Wells (5)
2 4-02 MIZYAN 14 (G) J Banks 5-11-12 J Twomey (5)
3 PP-1 OUR SLIMBRIDGE 41 (C,G,S) C Williams 5-11-7 A Carroll
4 10-0 LOCH GARANNE 23 (S) M Camacho 5-11-6 D Byrne
5 -033 FOX CHAPEL 18 (C,G,S) Jimmy Fitzgerald 6-11-6 G Tormey (7)
6 1-61 GYMCRAK SOVEREIGN 10 (C,G,S) G Holmes 5-11-1 R Marley
7 F-P1 NELTEGRITY 10 (S) T Caldwell 4-11-0 Peter Caldwell
8 2P-0 LIABILITY ORDER 58 (C,S) M Hammond 4-10-9 S Smith Eccles
9 22-0 ISABEAU 28 (C,F,G) K Morgan 6-10-8 A S Smith
10 3-56 PERSONAL HAZARD 11 (B,S) M H Easterby 4-10-5 M Brennan
11 2240 BALAAT 39 (F) M Chapman 5-10-0 W Worthington
12 P53U MILLIE 5 J Mooney 5-10-0 M Robinson

4-1 Gymcrak Sovereign, 5-1 Our Slimbridge, 6-1 Fox Chapel, 8-1 Mizyan, Neltegrity, Liability Order, 10-1 Loch Garanne, 12-1 Personal Hazard, 14-1 Isabeau, Sprowston Boy, 16-1 Balaat, 25-1 Millie.

3.05 LINCOLNSHIRE NATIONAL (Handicap chase: £7,263: 4m 1f) (12)

1 -321 ALL JEFF 18 (F,G,S) C Brooks 9-11-7 S Smith Eccles
2 5113 STAY ON TRACKS 18 (F,G,S) Mrs D Haine 11-11-2 Mr N King (7)
3 3-01 PORTONIA 38 (F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 9-10-13 Mr M Buckley (5)
4 3-F4 POLAR REGION 16 (F,G,S) Jimmy Fitzgerald 7-10-10 G Tormey (7)
5 -014 HIGH PADRE 37 (BF,F,G,S) Jimmy Fitzgerald 7-10-4 2nd pref
6 534F SIRRAH JAY 11 (F,G,S) K Burke 13-10-1 —
7 6-54 BROMPTON ROAD 11 (D,G,S) R Lee 10-10-0 D Byrne
8 3244 SMOOTH ESCORT 23 (B,S) Mrs D Haine 9-10-0 —
9 41-5 BARKIN 31 (C,G,S) G Richards 10-10-0 L O'Hara
10 24-5 DIAMOND FORT 41 (S) J McConnochie 8-10-0 M Brennan
11 3-64 DUBIOUS JAKE 9 (CD,F,S) R Woodhouse 10-10-0 C Burnett-Wells (5)
12 0/PP NINE BROTHERS 9 C Beever 9-10-0 2nd pref

11-4 All Jeff, 7-2 Portonia, 5-1 Stay On Tracks, 7-1 Polar Region, 8-1 Barkin, 10-1 Brompton Road, 12-1 Smooth Escort, 14-1 Sirrah Jay, 16-1 Dubious Jake, Diamond Fort, 20-1 others.

3.35 LINCS FM NOVICES HURDLE (£2,653: 2m 1f 110yd) (14)

1 3-61 VASILIEV 19 (V,S) M Hammond 5-11-12 2nd pref
2 41 APRIL CITY 24 (S) C Smith 4-11-7 M Ranger
3 4 BIRD WATCHER 18 M Hammond 4-11-6 S Smith Eccles
4 10-0 HOLD YOUR HAT ON 52 (G) C Thornton 4-11-6 D Wilkinson
5 20-0 INDIAN RIVER 21 Jimmy Fitzgerald 5-11-6 D Byrne
6 /0P LAZY RHYTHM 11F J Eyre 7-11-6 S Turner
7 5P-P LEARNED STAR 17 J Eyre 8-11-6 A Mulholland
8 /33 SWIFT ROMANCE 14 (BF) G Barnett 5-11-6 S Wynne (3)
9 PP0- TIP NAP 234 Mrs S Smith 5-11-6 Gary Lyons
10 F-04 MRS NORMAN 20 A Potts 4-11-1 L O'Hara
11 6213 RECORD LOVER 13F (D,F) M Chapman 3-10-12 W Worthington
12 FP EVE'S TREASURE 17 S Campion 3-10-1 R Marley
13 U RUMPUS 14 C Broad 3-10-1 A Carroll
14 30 WAMDHA 25 K Morgan 3-10-1 A S Smith

3-1 Record Lover, 7-2 Indian River, 5-1 Wamdha, 7-1 April City, 8-1 Swift Romance, 10-1 Mrs Norman, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley, 22 winners from 63 runners, 34.9%; M H Easterby, 22 from 66, 33.3%; G Richards, 7 from 22, 31.8%; C Brooks, 4 from 13, 30.8%; P Cheesbrough, 3 from 10, 30.0%; C Thornton, 6 from 21, 28.6%.

JOCKEYS: S Smith Eccles, 13 winners from 30 rides, 43.3%; D Byrne, 17 from 87, 19.5%; L O'Hara, 3 from 19, 15.8%; M Brennan, 16 from 128, 12.5%; A S Smith, 6 from 57, 10.5%; Gary Lyons, 6 from 60, 10.0%.

WETHERBY

THUNDERER
1.00 White Willow
1.30 One Man
2.00 Westholme
2.30 General Pershing
3.00 Last 'O' The Bunch
3.30 Mega Blue

GOING: SOFT SIS

1.00 CHRISTMAS NOVICES HURDLE (£2,250: 2m) (16 runners)

1 121 KENMORE-SPEED 10 (D,F,S) (K Dacker) Mrs S Smith 6-11-7 Richard Guest 90
2 2403-61 VASILIEV 19 (V,D,S) (R Houlton) M Hammond 5-11-7 C Grant 91
3 52 ALJADEER 18 (G Shouler) M W Easterby 4-11-0 N Doughty 93
4 432- BANCHORY 292 (G Shouler) M W Easterby 4-11-0 J Driscoll (7) —
5 203 CUMBRIAN CHALLENGE 19 (Cumbrian Industrials Ltd) M H Easterby 4-11-0 L Wyer 90
6 GOLDEN TORQUE 52F (T Smith) R Bastiman 6-11-0 H Bastiman (5) —
7 0/P MAGENTA BOY 45 (J Featherstone) G Moore 5-11-0 N Bentley (3) —
8 P MOYHILL 32 (Mrs P Morrison) J Mackie 4-11-0 D Fortt (7) —
9 0- PERFECT LIGHT 457 (Lady Harris) Mrs S Smith 4-11-0 A Jones —
10 0 SCARABEN 10 (J Tennant) S Kettlewell 5-11-0 W Marston —
11 TALOS 164F (Mrs G Lister) W Bentley 5-11-0 S Turner —
12 60 WALKING THE PLANK 16 (B) (Mrs Y Spink) N Tinkler 4-11-0 P Harley —
13 WESTFELD MOVES 47F (A Walley) H Collingridge 5-11-0 V Smith —
14 2 WHITE WILLOW 39 (BF) (Exors of Mrs H North) Mrs M Reveley 4-11-0 P Niven [illegible]
15 ZAFARRANCHO 434F (Marquesa de Moratalla) J FitzGerald 4-11-0 M Dwyer —
16 066- STOPROVERITATE 28F (J Clark) S Norton 4-10-9 D Wilkinson 78

BETTING: 5-2 White Willow, 4-1 Aljadeer, 6-1 Kenmore-Speed, Cumbrian Challenge, 8-1 Vasiliev, 12-1 Westfield Moves, 14-1 Golden Torque, 16-1 Talos.

1992: MEETING ABANDONED — FROST

1.30 BOROUGHBRIDGE NOVICES CHASE (£2,976: 3m 110yd) (5 runners)

1 54-1152 DEEP DECISION 23 (G) (A Cairns) P Cheesbrough 7-11-8 M Dwyer 78
2 132-111 ONE MAN 19 (D,F,G,S) (J Hales) G Richards 5-11-7 N Doughty [illegible]
3 113300- CLYDE RANGER 11 (S) (I Bray) M Hammond 6-11-0 C Grant —
4 2-4FF63 EDEN SUNSET 27 (R Collins) R Collins 7-11-0 2nd pref 73
5 363462 SUPPOSIN 9 (Mrs S Smith) Mrs S Smith 5-10-13 2nd pref 85

BETTING: 4-5 One Man, 7-2 Clyde Ranger, 5-1 Deep Decision, 8-1 Eden Sunset, 10-1 Supposin.

2.00 ST JOHN AMBULANCE HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,560: 2m) (10 runners)

1 21/12/4 PRECIOUS BOY 19 (CD,G,S) (M Johnson) M Meagher 7-12-0 D Fortt (7) —
2 300-402 ABBOT OF FURNESS 10 (C,D,S) (Lord Cavendish) G Richards 9-11-7 N Doughty 98
3 5010-24 BO KNOWS BEST 51 (D,F) (N Goldman) Mrs J Ramsden 4-11-2 P Niven 89
4 1146-3 KIVETON TYCOON 42 (B,D,G,S) (K H (Equine) Ltd) J Glover 4-11-0 M Dwyer 89
5 2312-42 HOME COUNTIES 44 (V,S) (Ron Cinemac Ltd) D Moffatt 4-10-9 Richard Guest 96
6 414PP-1 OUR SLIMBRIDGE 41 (D,G,S) (A Fiber) C Williams 5-10-3 2nd pref 89
7 21310-0 LOCH GARANNE 23 (CD,S) (M Gleeson) M Camacho 5-10-2 2nd pref 88
8 552-6F1 KANNDABIL 27 (B,CD,G,S) (N McAndrews) N Tinkler 6-10-2 C Grant 94
9 4-11131 WESTHOLME 16 (D,G) (T Bennett) M H Easterby 5-10-0 L Wyer [illegible]
10 5-F02FP FLASS VALE 16 (F) (Goldspace Business Services) C Fairhurst 5-10-0 D Wilkinson —

Long handicap: Flass Vale 8-12

BETTING: 2-1 Westholme, 7-2 Kiveton Tycoon, 6-1 Our Slimbridge, 6-1 Abbot Of Furness, Bo Knows Best, 10-1 Home Counties, 12-1 Kanndabil, Loch Garanne, 20-1 Precious Boy, 66-1 Flass Vale.

2.30 ROWLAND MEYRICK HANDICAP CHASE (£13,630: 3m 110yd) (7 runners)

1 2112-P0 ANOTHER CORAL 16 (F,G,S) (M Deeley) D Nicholson 10-12-0 W Marston 97
2 112F-21 COGENT 30 (F,G,S) (Pell-mell Partners) A Turnell 9-11-11 D Fortt (7) 94
3 43313-1 YOUNG BENZ 23 (C,G,S) (T Bennett) M H Easterby 9-11-3 L Wyer 96
4 11-2346 GENERAL PERSHING 16 (CD,F,G,S) (J Potter) G Richards 10-10-13 N Doughty [illegible]
5 2562-26 MERRY MASTER 30 (CD,F,G,S) (G Lansbury) R Armytage 9-10-8 Gee Armytage 97
6 6F1-111 MR BOSTON 23 (CD,F,G,S) (M Oldham) Mrs M Reveley 9-10-6 P Niven 96
7 3P2-311 CARBISDALE 16 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs M Williams) Mrs M Reveley 7-10-7 M Dwyer 96

BETTING: 9-4 Mr Boston, 5-1 Cogent, 4-1 Carbisdale, 5-1 Young Benz, 7-1 General Pershing, 10-1 Merry Master, 16-1 Another Coral.

3.00 SUPERMASTER HANDICAP CHASE (£3,695: 2m 4f 110yd) (3 runners)

1 435-563 UNCLE ERNIE 9 (G,S) (J Fitzgerald) Jimmy Fitzgerald 8-12-0 M Dwyer 95
2 23-4221 LAST 'O' THE BUNCH 19 (C,D,F,G,S) (G Middlebrook) G Richards 9-11-8 N Doughty [illegible]
3 36/22F DEEP DAWN 23 (S) (S Branken) M Hammond 10-10-0 C Grant 87

Long handicap: Deep Dawn 9-2

BETTING: 8-11 Last 'O' The Bunch, 11-8 Uncle Ernie, 8-1 Deep Dawn.

3.30 BOXING DAY NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,023: 2m) (9 runners)

1 111512 MEGA BLUE 17 (D,BF,F,G,S) (T Yates) Mrs V Aconley 8-11-10 P Niven [illegible]
2 40-620 BASILICUS 21 (T Hemmings) Mrs S Smith 4-11-8 D Towler (7) 84
3 065-650 STRONG MEASURE 27 (Leading Star Racing) P Cheesbrough 5-11-4 C Grant 89
4 5P4- PESSOA 346 (Mrs L Field) Mrs S Smith 6-10-10 R Wilkinson (7) 95
5 050- AIDE MEMOIRE 13F (Mrs B Brown) T Barron 4-10-9 L Wyer 92
6 P062 TAHITIAN 7 (BF) (S Tosh) N Tinkler 4-10-9 M Dwyer 98
7 P006-P0 STRATHBOGIE MIST 9 (W Sellers) J Parkes 5-10-4 D Fortt (7) 88
8 05PPP5/ GYMCRAK DAWN 581 (G) (F Sanders) J Hetherton 8-10-4 P Harley —
9 33/P- STEEL RIVER 374 (D Blake) Bob Jones 6-10-0 V Smith —

Long handicap: Steel River 9-11

BETTING: 5-2 Aide Memoire, 3-1 Tahitian, 4-1 Mega Blue, 6-1 Basilicus, 12-1 Pessoa, 16-1 Strong Measure.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
A Turnell	3	4	75.0	Gee Armytage	3	8	37.5
D Nicholson	7	18	38.9	N Doughty	19	80	23.8
R Armytage	3	8	37.5	P Niven	35	153	22.9
Mrs M Reveley	34	101	33.7	L Wyer	27	124	21.8
Jimmy Fitzgerald	21	91	23.1	M Dwyer	28	159	17.6
G Richards	27	120	22.5	D Byrne	6	45	13.3

HUNTINGDON

THUNDERER
12.30 Galaxy High. 1.00 Man O Mine. 1.30 Radical Request. 2.00 Gray's Ellergy. 2.30 Jimster. 3.00 Mrs Mayhew.

GOING: HEAVY

12.30 AEGON FINANCIAL SERVICES NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£2,627: 2m 110yd) (7 runners)

1 1503 SOCIAL CLIMBER 24 (D,G,S) A Turnell 9-11-10 S McNeill
2 4302 GALAXY HIGH 20 (B,G,S) N Henderson 6-11-5 M A Fitzgerald
3 U-23 SPOONHILL WOOD 24 (B,BF) J Wharton 7-11-2 B Dalton
4 2P0- WATERFORD CASTLE 247 A Turnell 6-10-13 B Powell
5 16FP STRONG JOHN 41 (F) F Murphy 5-10-10 P Murphy (7)
6 5-53 PETMER 18 (S) K Burke 6-10-6 D Bridgwater
7 /PP5 UNEXIS 14 S Mellor 8-10-0 Chris Webb (7)

9-4 Galaxy High, 4-1 Social Climber, 6-1 Petmer, Spoonhill Wood, 8-1 Waterford Castle, 10-1 Strong John, 12-1 Unexis.

1.00 AEGON FINANCIAL SERVICES NOVICES HURDLE (£2,043: 2m 5f 110yd) (10)

1 1/5 EASTERN RIVER 23 (G) T Forster 7-10-12 B Powell
2 FINESSE THE KING N Twiston-Davies 5-10-12 D Bridgwater
3 0 KING SCORPIO 19 C Egerton 4-10-12 B Wright
4 LORD NASKRA 135F J Campbell 4-10-12 R Campbell
5 MALENOIR 13F R Spicer 5-10-12 M A Fitzgerald
6 1-05 MAN O MINE 58 (F) F Murphy 4-10-12 P Murphy (7)
7 2 NICK THE BEAK 23 J Upson 4-10-12 Mr T Byrne (5)
8 55- RASTA MAN 264 W Musson 5-10-12 T Kent
9 6 RITA'S RISK 31 R Spicer 4-10-12 J Ryan
10 500 SOLO GENT 23 A Jones 4-10-12 S McNeill

5-2 Nick The Beak, 3-1 Eastern River, 7-2 Finesse The King, 6-1 Man O Mine, 10-1 Rasta Man, 14-1 King Scorpio, Lord Naskra, 20-1 others.

1.30 AEGON FINANCIAL SERVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,002: 2m 4f 110yd) (5)

1 0-66 MAJOR INQUIRY 51 (F,G) J Gifford 7-11-10 E Murphy
2 25-3 RADICAL REQUEST 5 (G,S) K Burke 10-11-0 M A Fitzgerald
3 0P31 MO ICHI DO 10 (F,G,S) Miss S Wilton 7-10-9 T Eley (5)
4 0F43 KEV'S LASS 18 (S) F Murphy 5-10-6 P Murphy (7)
5 -U34 BATHWICK BOBBIE 28 (B) A Turnell 6-10-4 S McNeill

2-1 Kev's Lass, 9-4 Mo Ichi Do, 3-1 Major Inquiry, 5-1 Bathwick Bobbie, 8-1 Radical Request.

2.00 AEGON NOVICES HURDLE (£1,763: 3m 2f) (11)

1 4212 NED THE HALL 23 (BF,S) K Bailey 5-11-5 A Thornton (3)
2 5-12 OCEAN LEADER 23 (CD,F) Mrs D Haine 6-11-5 M A Fitzgerald
3 3122 GRAY'S ELLERGY 14 (G) D Gandolfo 7-11-0 Miss P Jones (5)
4 0-0P AFTICA 53 (B) J Moore 6-10-12 P Moore (7)
5 P-53 BUCKSHOT 23 J Gifford 5-10-12 E Murphy
6 /3-3 CALLEROSE 19 T Forster 6-10-12 B Powell
7 553 HENRY VILL 10 N Twiston-Davies 5-10-12 D Bridgwater
8 0FP3 LITTLE THYNE 65 P Pritchard 8-10-12 Dr P Pritchard
9 4346 SUASANAN SIOSANA 9 J Upson 8-10-12 Mr T Byrne (5)
10 3F2P THE GOLFING CURATE 13 R Rowe 8-10-12 —
11 -000 THE OVERTRUMPER 10 G Roe 6-10-12 —

5-2 Ned The Hall, 9-2 Callerose, Ocean Leader, 5-1 Gray's Ellergy, 8-1 Buckshot, 10-1 Henry Vill, 14-1 Suasanan Siosana, 16-1 others.

2.30 AEGON HANDICAP CHASE (£3,236: 3m) (11)

1 2/1 MASTER OATS 53 (D,B) K Bailey 7-12-0 A Thornton (3)
2 3-2P SCOLE 58 (B) F Murphy 8-11-13 P Murphy (7)
3 534F SIRRAH JAY 11 (F,G,S) K Burke 13-11-10 —
4 -62P BOWL OF OATS 11 (B,S) A Turnell 7-11-9 S McNeill
5 354F DANDY MINSTREL 10 (CD,F,G,S) N Twiston-Davies 9-11-8 D Bridgwater
6 F24- WOODY WILL 227 (F) O Sherwood 7-10-13 2nd pref
7 BP-0 LEAGAUNE 23 (D,S) T Casey 11-10-10 A Jones
8 2513 JIMSTER 31 (CD,BF,F,S) C Nash 11-10-9 M A Fitzgerald
9 24-3 THAMESDOWN TOOTSIE 19 (G,S) A Jones 8-10-5 B Powell
10 -P00 ANOTHER CORNER 10 (B,F,G,S) T Donnelly 10-10-0 T Eley (5)
11 /35/ CLONROCHE GAZETTE 663 (S) Miss D Baker 13-10-0 —

11-4 Master Oats, 5-1 Bowl Of Oats, 6-1 Sirrah Jay, Woody Will, 7-1 Dandy Minstrel, Scole, 12-1 Thamesdown Tootsie, 16-1 others.

3.00 AEGON FINANCIAL SERVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,511: 2m 110yd) (6)

1 4006 ZAMIRAH 16 (D,F,G) N Twiston-Davies 4-11-12 D Bridgwater
2 510/ STEVEADON 657 (D,G) N Callaghan 7-11-12 —
3 3F31 TOP WAVE 13 (D,G,S) N Henderson 5-11-9 2nd pref
4 -182 NIGHT WIND 45 (CD,G,S) A Turnell 6-10-12 S McNeill
5 1145 MRS MAYHEW 34 (CD,F,G,S) F Murphy 5-10-3 P Murphy (7)
6 P432 JOLI'S GREAT 37 (B,D,G) M Ryan 5-10-2 J Ryan

5-2 Night Wind, 11-4 Top Wave, 4-1 Joli's Great, 9-2 Zamirah, 5-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: K Bailey, 7 winners from 27 runners, 25.9%; M Ryan, 7 from 30, 23.3%, A Jones, 3 from 14, 21.4%; N Henderson, 7 from 34, 20.6%; J Gifford, 15 from 75, 20.0%, S Mellor, 3 from 16, 18.8%.

JOCKEYS: J Ryan, 8 winners from 34 rides, 23.5%; S McNeill, 6 from 42, 14.3%; E Murphy, 4 from 28, 14.3%. Only qualifiers.

SEDGEFIELD

THUNDERER
12.50 Gute Nacht. 1.20 Grey Power. 1.50 Gathering Time. 2.20 Maudlins Cross. 2.50 Silver Stick. 3.20 Inan.

GOING: GOOD

12.50 JOHN WADE NOVICES CLAIMING HURDLE (£1,534: 3m 3f 110yd) (9 runners)

1 P0-0 TRAVEL BOUND 10 J Parkes 8-11-2 S Mason (7)
2 0-04 DENTICULATA 20 P Spottiswood 5-10-10 J Supple (5)
3 -P04 GUTE NACHT 10 S Campion 10-10-10 S Lyons (5)
4 50/ SUREST DANCER 41F W Barker 7-10-10 A Larnach (3)
5 00-2 PAR-BAR 11 D Eddy 5-10-9 R Garritty
6 0U-U HIGHLAND FRIEND 21 (B) F Watson 5-10-8 P Waggott (5)
7 065P RALLYING CRY 11 (V) R Allan 5-10-7 C Dennis
8 00-6 HELLO VANOS 82 C Beever 5-10-6 Mr K Green
9 6/0- CAROUSEL CROSSETT 402 E Came 12-10-7 K Davies (7)

7-4 Par-Bar, 7-2 Travel Bound, 9-2 Surest Dancer, 6-1 Highland Friend, 7-1 Denticulata, 8-1 Gute Nacht, 14-1 Rallying Cry, 25-1 others.

1.20 CHRISTMAS TREE HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,093: 2m 5f) (8)

1 3400 REVE DE VALSE 7 (G,S) Denys Smith 6-12-0 P Waggott (5)
2 200- GREY POWER 51F (CD,F,S) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-10 S Mason (7)
3 F64U CHIEF RAIDER 38 (D,G) J Wade 5-11-5 D Ryan (7)
4 5F51 THE GREEN FOOL 7 (C,F,G,S) V Thompson 6-11-3 (6ex) 2nd pref
5 -104 INTEGRITY BOY 38 (B,CD,F,G,S) R O'Leary 6-10-2 R Garritty
6 064- TV PITCH 210 (C,F) D Lee 5-10-0 W Owen
7 BF-0 GOLDEN REVERIE 21 (G) B Mactaggart 5-10-0 2nd pref
8 P0-0 PONDERED BID 26 (S) J Dooler 9-10-0 A Larnach (3)

7-4 Grey Power, 5-2 Integrity Boy, 7-2 Reve De Valse, 5-1 others.

1.50 NORTH YORKSHIRE BREWING ERIMUS DARK HANDICAP CHASE (£2,587: 3m 3f) (4)

1 -014 HIGH PADRE 37 (CD,BF,F,G,S) Jimmy Fitzgerald 7-12-0 F Leahy (7)
2 13-1 NO MORE TRIX 26 (C,G,S) T Tate 7-11-13 R Garritty
3 341F GATHERING TIME 10 (CD,BF,G,S) J Johnson 7-11-3 D O'Sullivan
4 /PP NINE BROTHERS 9 C Beever 9-10-0 Mr K Green

6-4 No More Trix, 7-4 High Padre, 9-4 Gathering Time, 33-1 Nine Brothers.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: T Tate, 8 winners from 20 runners, 40.0%; Jimmy Fitzgerald, 18 from 57, 31.6%; Mrs M Reveley, 56 from 180, 31.1%; M H Easterby, 21 from 83, 25.3%; G Moore, 29 from 136, 21.3%; J Hellens, 9 from 44, 20.5%.

JOCKEYS: D Ryan, 6 winners from 24 rides, 25.0%; F Leahy, 3 from 12, 25.0%; A Larnach, 8 from 52, 15.4%; R Garritty, 10 from 84, 11.9%; A Dobbin, 4 from 40, 10.0%. Only qualifiers.

2.20 RENT ROLL CUP HANDICAP CHASE (£2,422: 2m 1f) (5)

1 3312 MAUDLINS CROSS 16 (CD,F,G) Mrs M Reveley 8-12-0 A Larnach (3)
2 1251 DOWN THE ROAD 20 (CD,F,S) J Johnson 6-11-2 Richard Guest
3 P4-2 HAPPY BREED 10 (D,G,S) M H Easterby 10-10-11 R Garritty
4 53-6 MILITARY HONOUR 38 (B,G,S) J Swiers 8-10-3 N Smith
5 U225 PRESSURE GAME 21 (F) B Mactaggart 10-10-0 C Dennis

6-4 Maudlins Cross, 9-4 Happy Breed, 3-1 Down The Road, 6-1 others.

2.50 NORTH YORKSHIRE BREWING FLYING HERBERT NOVICES CHASE (£2,154: 2m 5f) (8)

1 2-P CASTLEFERGUS 44 G Moore 6-11-6 N Bentley (3)
2 FF63 EDEN SUNSET 27 R Collins 7-11-6 Mr Chris Wilson
3 -400 GOLDEN BANKER 61 J Wade 5-11-6 K Jones
4 P KINGLY LOOK 27 C Beever 6-11-6 Mr K Green
5 11-6 SILVER STICK 28 (F,G,S) M W Easterby 6-11-6 R Garritty
6 P60- SOUTH STACK 334 (S) Mrs S Smith 7-11-6 Richard Guest
7 3332 VAYRUA 20 (B,G,S) J Hellens 8-11-6 A Larnach (3)
8 -0F3 SUPER SANDY 20 F Walton 6-11-1 N Smith

11-10 Silver Stick, 11-4 Vayrua, 4-1 Castlefergus, 13-2 Eden Sunset, 8-1 South Stack, 50-1 Super Sandy, 66-1 Golden Banker, Kingly Look.

3.20 ST STEPHEN HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,883: 2m 1f 110yd) (7)

1 F-03 BRAMBLEBERRY 19 (S) Mrs S Smith 4-12-0 Richard Guest
2 3630 ALL WELCOME 26 (D,F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-10 D Ryan (7)
3 31-0 DORADUS 19 (CD,F,G) Jimmy Fitzgerald 5-11-8 F Leahy (7)
4 2-03 INAN 20 R O'Leary 4-10-10 K Davies (7)
5 -004 CURTAIN FACTORY 26 (B,G) M H Easterby 4-10-10 R Garritty
6 005- REXY BOY 210 (S) W Barker 6-10-0 A Larnach (3)
7 -P05 STARLIGHT WONDER 36 (D,F,G) R Barr 7-10-0 N Smith

5-2 Brambleberry, 3-1 Inan, 7-2 All Welcome, 9-2 Curtain Factory, 6-1 Doradus, 10-1 Rexy Boy, 66-1 Starlight Wonder.

Riverside Boy cut for Welsh test

RIVERSIDE Boy, Martin Pipe's sole intended representative in Tuesday's Welsh National at Chepstow, was cut to 2-1 favourite from 9-4 by Ladbrokes yesterday.

With Rolling Ball confirmed as a starter in the King George at Kempton, and Merry Master being aimed at the Rowland Meyrick at Wetherby, Ladbrokes shortened the prices of several of the leading fancies for the Chepstow marathon. After the favourite, they bet: 4-1 Party Politics (from 9-2), 9-2 Cool Ground, 6-1 Indian Tonic (from 7-1), 7-1 Stirrup Cup (from 8's), 14-1 Sibton Abbey, Willsford, 20-1 Fiddlers Pike, 33-1 Cythere, 66-1 Rufus.

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER
1.35 Master Beveled. 2.05 Causley. 2.35 Gold Blade. 3.05 Rocketeer. 3.35 Success Story. 4.05 Absolutely Nuts. 4.35 Maamur.

GOING: STANDARD SIS (FIRST FIVE RACES)
DRAW: LOW NUMBERS MAY BE FAVOURED

1.35 GUNNEBO PROTECTION LIMITED STAKES (£2,758: 7f) (12 runners)

1 2242 EXPRESS SERVICE 12 (B,D,S) W O'Gorman 4-9-0 Emma O'Gorman (3) 7
2 0310 LETSBEONESTABOUTIT 9 (B,D,F,G,S) Mrs N Macauley 7-9-0 K Darley 2
3 -006 LILLAH DARAK 34 (F) A Jones 5-9-0 Claire Balding (7) 10
4 4620 MASTER HYDE 210 (D,G) P Mitchell 4-9-0 Paul Eddery 4
5 0303 STATE FLYER 13 (B,S) G Oldroyd 5-9-0 S Webster 6
6 6000 HERSHEBAR 11 (B,G) S Bowring 3-8-13 G Strange (7) 8
7 4051 MAKE MINE A DOUBLE 11 (F,G) D Nicholls 3-8-13 Alex Greaves 5
8 3114 MASTER BEVELED 9 (D,G) P Evans 3-8-13 S Sanders (5) 1
9 4135 MUSTN'T GRUMBLE 25 (B,G) B Beasley 3-8-13 J Williams 9
10 0203 MALCESINE 58 (F) J H Wilson 4-8-9 Darren Moffatt (5) 11
11 0013 SCOTTISH PARK 12 (D,F,G) J Harris 4-8-9 T Williams 12
12 4005 SPLASH OF SALT 12 (G) T Naughton 3-8-8 J Quinn 3

5-1 Express Service, 6-1 Make Mine A Double, 7-1 Letsbeonestaboutit, 8-1 Master Beveled, Mustn't Grumble, Scottish Park, State Flyer, 10-1 others.

2.05 BOWMER & KIRKLAND CLAIMING STAKES (£2,954: 7f) (12)

1 4061 SEA DEVIL 34 (F,G,S) M Camacho 7-9-6 L Charnock 1
2 1050 CAUSLEY 13 (D,F,G,S) B McMahon 8-9-2 S Sanders (5) 6
3 3000 SAVAHRA SOUND 13 (V,D,F,G,S) S Bowring 8-9-2 T Williams 9
4 5000 PAIR OF JACKS 25 (B) W Muir 3-9-1 J Quinn 5
5 2060 RESPECTABLE JONES 19 (D,F,G,S) R Hollinshead 7-8-12 Paul Eddery 12
6 0002 SUPER BENZ 34 (B,D,BF,F,G,S) B Beasley 7-8-12 J Fanning 11
7 0500 CONISTON LAKE 41 (D,F) G L Moore 4-8-10 B Rouse 7
8 60-0 WSOM 41J (D,F) J Carr 5-8-10 A Clark 4
9 2515 MAID WELCOME 30 (V,D,F,G) Mrs N Macauley 6-8-7 K Darley 3
10 5150 WORKINGFORPEANUTS 119 (V,D,F) C Smith 3-8-7 M Wigham 2
11 0000 DYNAMIC GEORGE 6 (B) N Callaghan 3-8-5 A Mackay 8
12 0000 WHYALLA RAIN 8 D Laing 3-8-4 N Adams 10

4-1 Super Benz, 5-1 Sea Devil, Maid Welcome, 6-1 Causley, 8-1 others.

2.35 TOTE ALL-WEATHER HANDICAP (£8,656: 1m 1f 79yd) (13)

1 2110 SPENCER'S REVENGE 275 (G) Lord Huntingdon 4-10-0 B Rouse 6
2 1523 MULCIBER 6 (F,G) G Harwood 5-9-5 C Rutter 3
3 0484 RAPPORTEUR 28 (F,G,S) C C Elsey 7-9-8 J Quinn 5
4 1013 TEMPERING 26 (BF,F,G) D Chapman 7-9-8 O Pears (3) 2
5 0014 MENTALASANYTHIN 6 (G,S) A Bailey 4-9-6 A Mackay 11
6 0110 BEVERLY KNIGHT 13 (G) D Murray Smith 3-9-4 K Darley 8
7 5121 LOOKINGFORARAINBOW 19 (D,F,G) Bob Jones 5-9-2 M Wigham 7
8 0015 PERFAY 12 (BF,G,S) D Wilson 5-9-0 J Williams 10
9 6000 SIRTELIMAR 49 (G) R Spicer 4-8-12 A Clark 13
10 2624 WORDSMITH 32J (BF,G) D Burchell 3-8-11 — 1
11 0226 CERTAIN WAY 192 (G) D Kent 3-8-10 S D Williams 4
12 5306 GOLD BLADE 19 (F,G) N Graham 4-8-7 J Weaver 9
13 4000 AWESTRUCK 35 (F,G,S) B Preece 3-8-4 T Wall 12

6-1 Lookingforarainbow, Tempering, 7-1 Rapporteur, 8-1 Mulciber, 10-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS
BASED ON TURF MEETINGS

TRAINERS: G Harwood, 8 winners from 22 runners, 36.4%; Lord Huntingdon, 4 from 16, 25.0%; J Fanshawe, 3 from 15, 20.0%; J Spearing, 7 from 46, 15.2%; P Cole, 5 from 38, 13.2%; J Berry, 16 from 126, 12.7%.

JOCKEYS: A Clark, 5 winners from 32 rides, 15.6%; K Darley, 4 from 26, 15.4%; Dale Gibson, 4 from 40, 10.0%. Only qualifiers.

3.05 BUCKNELL AUSTIN NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O: £5,744: 6f) (10)

1 0214 WORLD TRAVELLER 19 (B,D,BF,G) W O'Gorman 9-7 Emma O'Gorman (3) 3
2 6410 PALACEGATE JO 62 (D,G,S) J Berry 9-7 P Roberts (7) 8
3 3064 DANCE OF THE SWANS 100 (G,S) D Kent 9-6 Dale Gibson 7
4 1001 PHONEAHOLIC 9 (B,D,G) B Meehan 9-4 B Rouse 6
5 0353 WINDOW DISPLAY 9 (S) Mrs N Macauley 8-8 K Darley 4
6 0000 LUCKY FOURTEEN 82 (G) D Chapman 8-3 J Fanning 9
7 0000 ROCKETEER 12 (B) W Muir 8-2 Kim McDonnell 1
8 3433 JUST GREENWICH 12 P Evans 7-13 J Quinn 5
9 5000 BLUE DOMAIN 54 R Hollinshead 7-12 M Humphries (7) 2
10 0050 MAZ 19 A Bailey 7-11 A Mackay 10

9-4 World Traveller, 4-1 Palacegate Jo, Phoneaholic, 5-1 Window Display, 6-1 Just Greenwich, 10-1 Dance Of The Swans, 20-1 Lucky Fourteen, 25-1 others.

3.35 NEW FIBRESAND ALL-WEATHER MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,720: 1m 100yd) (12)

1 000 GOLD'N SHROUD 13 T Thomson Jones 9-0 J Williams 6
2 4004 GRANDEE 11 B McMahon 9-0 J Bramhill (7) 10
3 44 MYTTON'S CHOICE 13 A Bailey 9-0 S Whitworth 9
4 6053 REGAL RAMBLER 13 L Barratt 9-0 S Sanders (5) 12
5 0 RUB AL KHALI 6 D Laing 9-0 N Adams 4
6 0642 UPPER GROSVENOR 11 P Cole 9-0 C Rutter 7
7 0065 VAYELLO 13 (B) C Smith 9-0 K Rutter (5) 2
8 000 WENLOCH LAD 49 J Peacock 9-0 T Wall 5
9 WILD ACE N Graham 9-0 J Weaver 11
10 0202 WINN'S PRIDE 13 (BF) R Hollinshead 9-0 Paul Eddery 8
11 DANCE STEPPE J Spearing 8-9 A Mackay 1
12 4 SUCCESS STORY 91 Lord Huntingdon 8-9 K Darley 3

11-4 Winn's Pride, 7-2 Upper Grosvenor, 5-1 Regal Rambler, 6-1 Success Story, 7-1 Mytton's Choice, Wild Ace, 12-1 Vayello, 14-1 Rub Al Khali, 16-1 others.

4.05 MUSCO LIGHTING FIRST EVER FLOODLIT IN GREAT BRITAIN HANDICAP (£3,132: 6f) (13)

1 0046 PETRACO 11 (D,G,S) N Smith 5-9-10 S D Williams 6
2 0000 SHADOW JURY 26 (B,F,G,S) D Chapman 3-9-9 K Darley 1
3 4603 JULIET BRAVO 53 (F) J Fanshawe 3-9-3 J Quinn 9
4 0056 NOBBY BARNES 9 (D,G) D Wilson 4-9-3 J Williams 10
5 0050 ABSOLUTELY NUTS 13 (D,G) P Evans 4-8-13 T Williams 3
6 0303 FARMER JOCK 11 (C,D,F,S) Mrs N Macauley 11-8-12 A Clark 12
7 0010 SIMMIE'S SPECIAL 72 (B,S) R Hollinshead 5-8-11 A Garth (5) 7
8 0000 STRIP CARTOON 11 (V,D,G,S) S Bowring 5-8-11 G Strange (7) 13
9 -000 GLENCROFT 11 (B,D,F,G,S) D Chapman 9-8-7 J Fanning 5
10 4000 OUR MICA 35 (B,G,S) L Barratt 3-8-6 N Adams 11
11 1-02 BATTLING BELLA 6 (D) G L Moore 4-8-5 Mark Denaro (7) 2
12 0300 LAST STRAW 13 (B,D,G) A Jones 5-8-4 Paul Eddery 8
13 0026 TAKE IT IN CASH 9 R Dickin 4-8-1 C Rutter 4

6-1 Battling Bella, Juliet Bravo, 7-1 Farmer Jock, Nobby Barnes, Petraco, Simmie's Special, 10-1 Take It In Cash, 14-1 Glencroft, 16-1 others.

4.35 WOLVERHAMPTON TEC/CITY CHALLENGE HANDICAP (£3,290: 2m 46yd) (10)

1 0030 DIME BAG 25J (D,BF,G) J Edwards 4-10-0 K Darley 5
2 0610 FIVE TO SEVEN 72 (D,G,S) C Thornton 4-9-4 O Pears (3) 3
3 23-0 MAAMUR 23J (G) D Burchell 5-9-3 R Price 1
4 -420 QUALITAIR AVIATOR 13 (D,F,G) J Bottomley 7-8-12 G Bardwell 8
5 0000 IOTA 51 (C,D,G,S) J Harris 4-8-12 Paul Eddery 4
6 0000 DOC SPOT 72 J H Wilson 3-8-4 Darren Moffatt (5) 10
7 4431 MRS JAWLEYFORD 13 (D,G) C Smith 5-7-13 M Baird (7) 2
8 0054 EUROTWIST 11 (BF,G,S) T Barron 4-7-12 J Fanning 7
9 2310 ANN HILL 26 (F,G) R Hollinshead 3-7-7 A Garth (5) 9
10 3405 ENFANT DU PARADIS 28 (G) P Evans 5-7-7 J Quinn 6

3-1 Five To Seven, 9-2 Maamur, Mrs Jawleyford, 5-1 Eurotwist, 7-1 Ann Hill, 10-1 Qualitair Aviator, 12-1 Dime Bag, Enfant Du Paradis, 20-1 others.

☐ Newmarket racecourse has signed a £15,000 sponsorship agreement with caterers Compass Group for a day's racing on May 20 next year. The deal is part of a £200,000 promotional campaign for its retail brands after which the seven races will be named.

هكذا من الأصل

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Richard Evans predicts the outcome at Kempton

Barton Bank takes lead role in the phantom call

ONE of the joys of the build-up to top races in Australia is the phantom call, where the equivalent of Peter O'Sullevan or Graham Goode provides a dramatic commentary and shouts home the "winner" on television, at special events and even on premium rate telephone lines in the days leading up to the race.

Hopefully, British racing will soon adopt the popular idea and boost the appeal of big races like the Derby, the Grand National and King George VI Tripleprint Chase at Kempton Park...

"And as the 11 runners jump off for the 43rd running of the King George, Young Hustler is immediately challenged for the lead by Barton Bank and Rolling Ball. Coming to the first plain fence, the trio take it together... and as they make their way up the back straight these confirmed front-runners have already drawn some lengths clear of their rivals.

The pace is generous and similar to the 1987 running of the race when the great Desert Orchid, Beau Ranger and Cybrandian duelled for the lead only to set up the race for Nupsala...

"As the field passes the stands for the first time, the order of the leaders remains unchanged. Young Hustler, a game winner at Ascot nine days ago, still holds a narrow advantage over Barton Bank, who has jumped well for Adrian Maguire, with Rolling Ball breathing down their necks in third, despite a couple of minor errors. Five lengths away, Bradbury Star heads the chasing pack, shaded by Docklands Express. Black Humour is travelling sweetly in midfield along with the bold-jumping Travado. Adam Kondrat is taking The Fellow wide, as he did when winning the race last year. Nevada Gold and Another Coral are already beginning to feel the pace and are passed by Zeta's Lad...

"Into the back straight for the second time, still no change among the leaders, but Docklands Express gains a place or two. Kondrat has not moved on The Fellow. Another Coral is pulled up and Nevada Gold is well behind...

"With four fences to jump and everything to play for Young Hustler still takes them along. Barton Bank makes a slight error but does not lose any ground. Rolling Ball begins to tire and as the field starts to turn towards home, Docklands Express heads the chasing group, but look at The Fellow, he's travelling ominously well through the field and Travado is also making a forward move...

"Into the straight with three fences and less than three furlongs to go in the King George and half of the runners have every chance. Young Hustler jumps slightly to his left, and Barton Bank, hugging the inside, leads for the first time. Suddenly, the whole complexion of the race is changing. The Fellow and Travado pass Docklands Express and jump the third last together. Bradbury Star and Zeta's Lad are staying on...

"Two out and Barton Bank goes on by three, Young Hustler gives way to The Fellow and Travado, who are reducing the leader's margin with every stride. Down to the last and Maguire goes for his whip. Barton Bank touches down just ahead of The Fellow, and a length clear of Travado, who can find no more...

"The Fellow is drifting towards the stands but is still closing... 50 yards to go and the pair are neck and neck, split by the width of the track, but as they reach the winning line it is...

"Barton Bank... Barton Bank wins the King George. The Fellow is second and Travado holds the late challenge of Zeta's Lad for third place."

Of course, some racing fans think phantom calls are nothing more than make believe. Others treat them as inspired guesswork. A few souls regard them as gospel — I could not possibly comment.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: TISSISAT
(12.45 Kempton Park)
Next best: Barton Bank
(2.20 Kempton Park)

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



The Fellow triumphant after last season's King George

BIG-RACE FIELD

2.20 KING GEORGE VI TRIPLEPRINT CHASE C4
(Grade I: £51,780: 3m) (11 runners)

401 2112-P0 ANOTHER CORAL 16 (C,F,G,S) (M Deeley) D Nicholson 10-11-10 ... 2nd pref 89
402 1F1P-11 BARTON BANK 23 (D,G,S) (Mrs J Mould) D Nicholson 7-11-10 ... A Maguire 89
403 21F1-13 BLACK HUMOUR 30 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Lady Lloyd Webber) C Brooks 9-11-10 ... G Bradley 93
404 4223-11 BRADBURY STAR 44 (C,F,G,S) (J Campbell) J Gifford 8-11-10 ... D Murphy 98
405 51411-3 DOCKLANDS EXPRESS 16 (CD,F,G,S) (R Baines) K Bailey 11-11-10 ... N Williamson 97
406 121-221 NEVADA GOLD 25 (F,G,S) (Maltwood Ltd) F Yardley 7-11-10 ... D Gallagher 80
407 0111/F ROLLING BALL 30 (D,S) (Mrs H Clarke) M Pipe 10-11-10 ... R Dunwoody —
408 454-533 THE FELLOW 43 (B,CD,G,S) (Marquesa de Moratalla) F Doumen (Fr) 8-11-10 A Kondrat 99
409 111-114 TRAVADO 23 (C,F,G,S) (Mrs M Emcver) N Henderson 7-11-10 ... J Osborne 91
410 213-221 YOUNG HUSTLER 9 (D,F,G,S) (G MacEchern) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-10 C Llewellyn 95
411 11V3-54 ZETA'S LAD 30 (CD,F,G,S) (A Cohen) J Upson 10-11-10 ... R Supple 92

BETTING: 5-2 The Fellow, 3-1 Young Hustler, 9-2 Barton Bank, 7-1 Black Humour, Bradbury Star, 14-1 Rolling Ball, 16-1 Travado, 20-1 Docklands Express, Zeta's Lad, 50-1 Nevada Gold, 66-1 Another Coral

1992: THE FELLOW 7-11-10 A Kondrat (Evens fav) F Doumen (Fr) 8 ran

Form guide to the 11 runners

ANOTHER CORAL
Dec 11, Cheltenham, good: see Young Hustler.
Nov 27, Newbury, good, (12-0) pulled up 10 out in race won by Egypt Mill Prince (2m 4f h'cap ch, £4,542, 8 ran).
Jan 30, Cheltenham, soft (11-12) ¾l 2nd to Sibton Abbey (11-12) (3m 1f 110yd ch, £10,309, 7 ran).

BARTON BANK
Dec 4, Sandown, good, (11-10) beat Cab On Target (11-10) 20l (3m 110yd ch, £7,008, 2 ran).
Oct 30, Wetherby, good: (11-2) beat Cab On Target (11-2) 2l (3m 110yd grade II ch, £15,440, 7 ran).
Mar 17, Cheltenham, good to firm: see Young Hustler.

BLACK HUMUOR
Nov 27, Newbury, good: (11-0) 5½l 3rd to Cogent (10-8), with Zeta's Lad (4lb better off) 6l 4th and Rolling Ball (11lb worse off) fell 3rd (3m 2f 110yd grade III h'cap ch, £35,152, 9 ran).
Oct 16, Kempton, good: (11-0) beat Sibton Abbey (11-9) a distance (3m h'cap ch, £11,450, 11 ran).
Apr 2, Aintree, firm (12-0) beat Sikera Spy (10-6) 3l (3m 1f h'cap ch, £8,115, 11 ran).

BRADBURY STAR
Nov 13, Cheltenham, soft: (11-8) beat Egypt Mill Prince (10-3) 7l (2m 4f 110yd grade II h'cap ch, £32,143, 15 ran).
Oct 20, Cheltenham, good: (11-7) beat Garisson Savannah (11-7) 1½l (2m 5f h'cap ch, £4,143, 4 ran).
Feb 27, Kempton, good: see Zeta's Lad.

DOCKLANDS EXPRESS
Dec 11, Doncaster, good: (12-0) 13½l 3rd to Carbisdale (10-0) (3m 2f h'cap ch, £5,638, 4 ran).
May 31, Fakenham, good (12-10) beat Red Columbia (11-12) (2m 5f 110yd amateurs' ch, £3,035, 4 ran).
May 8, Warwick, good to firm (12-0) beat Garisson Savannah (10-12) (3m 2f ch, £3,948, 5 ran).
Feb 27, Kempton, good: see Zeta's Lad.

NEVADA GOLD
Dec 2, Uttoxeter, good: (10-11) beat Thatcher Rock (10-4) 1½l (2m 5f h'cap ch, £3,469, 8 ran).
Nov 6, Sandown, good to firm: (10-11) 6l 2nd to Far Senior (11-10) (3m 110yd h'cap ch, £5,546, 4 ran).
Oct 23, Worcester, good: (11-9) 7l 2nd of 9 to Stunning Stuff (11-5) (2m 4f 110yd h'cap ch, £3,158, 9 ran).

ROLLING BALL
Nov 27, Newbury, good: see Black Humour.
Nov 30 1991, Chepstow, soft: (11-10) beat Caraver (10-12) (2m 4f ch, £4,080, 5 ran).
Mar 13 1991, Cheltenham, good to soft (11-4) beat Esha Ness (11-4) (3m grade I nov ch, £50,033, 20 ran).

THE FELLOW
Nov 14, Auteuil, heavy: (10-4) 11l 3rd to Al Capone (10-8) (3m 3f 110yd ch, £71,885, 4 ran).
Oct 16, Auteuil, heavy, (10-3) disqualified and placed 3rd after beating Ucello II (11-2) 1½l (2m 6f ch, £35,842, 8 ran).
Jun 20, Auteuil, soft, (10-1) 16l 5th to Ucello II (10-1) (3m 5f ch, £119,474, 9 ran).

TRAVADO
Dec 4, Sandown, good: (12-0) 9l 4th to Sybillin (11-9) (2m grade II h'cap ch, £15,550, 7 ran).
Nov 23, Huntingdon, good to soft (11-9) beat Deep Sensation (11-9) 7l (2m 4f 110yd grade II ch, £11,088, 4 ran).
Nov 2, Exeter, good to firm, (11-0) beat Deep Sensation (11-6) 20l (2m 2f grade II ch, £15,925, 5 ran).

YOUNG HUSTLER
Dec 18, Ascot, good to soft: (11-10) beat Latent Talent (11-4) 6l (3m 110yd h'cap ch, £23,207, 8 ran).
Dec 11, Cheltenham, good (11-1) 3l 2nd to Fragrant Dawn (10-2), with ANOTHER CORAL (11-7) 97l 10th (2m 5f grade III h'cap ch, £21,215, 11 ran).
Oct 21, Wincanton, good to firm: (11-8) 5l 2nd to Panto Prince (11-8) (2m 5f grade II ch, £15,550, good to firm).
Apr 2, Aintree, firm (11-9) 13l 3rd to Cab On Target (11-3) (3m 1f nov ch, £20,976, 4 ran).
Mar 17, Cheltenham, good to firm: (11-4) beat Superior Finish (11-4) 3l, with BARTON BANK pulled up (3m 1f grade I nov ch, £42,935, 8 ran).

ZETA'S LAD
Nov 27, Newbury, good: see Black Humour.
Nov 13, Cheltenham, soft (11-8) 16l 5th to Royal Athlete (12-0) (3m 3f 110yd h'cap ch, £7,133, 8 ran).
Apr 12, Fairyhouse, soft (11-5) 5½l 3rd to Ebony Jane (10-7) (3m 5f h'cap ch, £55,200, 27 ran).
Feb 27, Kempton, good (10-10) beat Docklands Express (12-0) 1½l, with BRADBURY STAR (10-10) neck 3rd (3m grade II h'cap ch, £28,110, good).

Selection: THE FELLOW

KEMPTON PARK

THUNDERER
12.45 Corrouge
1.15 Coulton
1.45 Clurican
2.20 YOUNG HUSTLER (nap)
2.50 Monsieur Le Cure
3.20 Hurricane Blake

GOING: GOOD SIS

12.45 BONUSPHOTO NOVICES HURDLE C4
(£5,845: 2m) (13 runners)

101 2131 MAN TO MAN 10 (S) (S Clarke) F Doumen (Fr) 6-11-5 ... A Kondrat 90
102 343/F1 MY WIZARD 24 (D,G) (Mrs A Brodie) J Gifford 5-11-5 ... D Murphy 78
103 12332F BILLY BORU 16 (D,F,S) (R Butler) Mrs M Long 5-11-0 ... D Gallagher 90
104 1F CORROUGE 16 (B,BF,G) (M Gates) N Twiston-Davies 4-11-0 ... C Llewellyn 91
105 53-12 DOMINANT FORCE 23 (F) (Mrs P Jubert) R Hannon 4-11-0 ... M Perrett 80
106 DUKE OF EUROLINK 121F (Eurolink Group Plc) M Pipe 4-11-0 ... R Dunwoody —
107 4 FLIGHT LIEUTENANT 30 (P & S Lever Partners) R Hannon 4-11-0 ... G Bradley 82
108 1225 NATIVE CHIEFTAN 45 (D,F) (Mrs S Crowe) S Dow 4-11-0 ... H Davies 89
109 00 ROCA MURADA 25 (B Brooks) D Nicholson 4-11-0 ... A Maguire —
110 1 SHUJAN 9 (D,S) (Sir Eric Parker) R Akehurst 4-11-0 ... G McCourt 71
111 2 SYLVAN SABRE 12F (V) (Exors Sir William Garthwaite) P Mitchell 4-11-0 ... J Osborne 79
112 1 TISSISAT 28 (D,G) (U Schwarzenbach) I Balding 4-11-0 ... J Frost 81
113 032-4 VITAL WONDER 57 (K Costello) D Elsworth 5-11-0 ... P Holley 53

BETTING: 3-1 Man To Man, 9-2 Shujan, 7-1 Corrouge, Native Chieftan, 8-1 Flight Lieutenant, Tissisat, 10-1 Duke Of Eurolink, 12-1 Dominant Force, My Wizard, 16-1 others.

1992: SATIN LOVER 4-11-5 G McCourt (4-5 fav) N Tinkler 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

MAN TO MAN beat Fun Money 20l in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m 4f 110yd, heavy). MY WIZARD beat Brief Gale 3l in a 21-runner novice hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good). BILLY BORU 1½l 2nd of 19 to Bond Jnr in a novice hurdle at Chepstow on penultimate start (2m 110yd, soft). COROUGE beat General Tonic 6l in a 14-runner novice hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, good), with ROCA MURADA tailed off. FLIGHT LIEUTENANT 13½l 4th of 19 to Large Action in a novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good). NATIVE CHIEFTAN 1l 2nd of 10 to Middle Marker in a conditions hurdle at Newbury on penultimate start (2m 110yd, good). SHUJAN beat Rafters 10l in an 11-runner novice hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, heavy). TISSISAT beat Time For A Flutter 2l in an 18-runner novice hurdle at Worcester (2m, good).
Selection: MAN TO MAN

1.15 TRIPLEPRINT FELTHAM NOVICES CHASE C4
(Grade I: £19,140: 3m) (7 runners)

201 1814-84 ANDREW'S FIRST 19 (D,BF,F,G,S) (J Hancock) M Wilkinson 6-11-7 ... C Llewellyn —
202 0-1U112 COULTON 16 (F,G,S) (G Shiel) M W Easterby 6-11-7 ... R Dunwoody 99
203 33-2111 CRYSTAL SPIRIT 16 (F,G,S) (P Mellon) I Balding 6-11-7 ... J Frost 97
204 3F4-421 GOLDEN FARE 46 (F) (N Barrowclough) R Lee 8-11-7 ... N Williamson 71
205 00-PU ONE MORE RUN 11 (M Jackson Bloodstock Ltd) G Balding 6-11-7 ... Craig Thornton —
206 522/111 SEE MORE INDIANS 17 (F,G,S) (P Barber) P Nicholls 6-11-7 ... G Bradley 87
207 245U-12 SPIKEY 24 (D,G) (S Powell) J Jenkins 7-11-7 ... A Maguire 84

BETTING: 2-1 Coulton, Crystal Spirit, 3-1 See More Indians, 12-1 Andrew's First, 14-1 Spikey, 20-1 Golden Fare, 33-1 One More Run.

1992: DAKYNS BOY 7-11-7 P Scudamore (9-2) N Twiston-Davies 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

ANDREW'S FIRST 14l 4th of 18 to Barely Black in a novice chase at Worcester (2m 4f 110yd, heavy). COULTON beat Keep Sharp 15l in a 3-runner novice chase at Aintree on penultimate start (2m 4f, good).
CRYSTAL SPIRIT beat COULTON (4lb better off) 1½l in a 5-runner novice chase at Cheltenham last time out (3m 5l, good). Previously, beat Judged Lucky 12l in an 8-runner novice chase at Newbury (2m 4f, good).
GOLDEN FARE beat Abu Muslab ½l in a 12-runner novice's handicap chase at Taunton (2m 3f, good to firm). SEE MORE INDIANS beat Earth Summit 2½l in a 5-runner novice chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f 110yd, good). Previously, beat Run Up The Flag 30l in the 8-runner grade II Aga Novices' Chase at Worcester (2m 7f, good).
SPIKEY 2½l 2nd of 8 to Yorkshire Gale in a novice chase at Sandown (3m 110yd, good). Previously, beat Fiveleigh First ¾l in a 7-runner novice's handicap chase at Ascot (3m 110yd, good).
Selection: CRYSTAL SPIRIT

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rns	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
T Thomson Jones	9	23	39.1	W Marston	3	6	50.0
N Tinkler	5	17	29.4	R Dunwoody	29	116	25.0
N Henderson	17	68	25.0	J Osborne	23	106	21.7
D Sherwood	13	52	25.0	G McCourt	12	61	19.7
M Pipe	14	57	24.6	M Perrett	9	62	14.5
G Harwood	5	23	21.7	J Frost	7	50	14.0

1.45 BONUSPRINT HANDICAP HURDLE C4
(£4,403: 2m) (11 runners)

301 2232-63 KILCASH 9 (B,D,G,S) (J Whelan) P Hedger 5-12-0 ... M Richards 94
302 0F610/ HONEST WORD 855 (D,G,S) (Mrs H Clarke) M Pipe 8-11-8 ... R Dunwoody —
303 1512-34 AMAZON EXPRESS 30 (CD,G) (Mrs J Moss) R Akehurst 4-11-6 ... J Osborne 95
304 311-210 ARABIAN BOLD 23 (D,F,G,S) (Sheikh Amin Dahlawi) N Henderson 5-11-3 N Williamson 95
305 1/134-60 JIMMY THE GILLIE 23 (CD,F,G,S) (N Robinson) S Christian 7-10-12 ... P Melia (7) 88
306 14346-0 SHARRIBA 9 (D,S) (Non-Stop Promotions Ltd) G Humphrey 4-10-5 ... C Llewellyn 94
307 224642 CHILD OF THE MIST 18 (D,BF,G,S) (J Whyte) John Whyte 7-10-2 ... A Maguire 98
308 01-0455 CORRIN HILL 14 (S) (B Froome) R Hodges 6-10-2 ... B McCourt 99
309 60P042 CLURICAN 10 (D,S) (P Grundy) N Tinkler 4-10-0 ... D Murphy 98
310 65-3F31 TOP WAVE 13 (D,G,S) (A Collins) N Henderson 5-10-0 ... Pat Thompson (7) 91
311 60-2313 MONDAY CLUB 17 (D,F,G) (J Tuck) J Tuck 9-10-0 ... D Meade (7) 93

Long handicap: Top Wave 9-13, Monday Club 9-12.

BETTING: 4-1 Kilcash, 5-1 Amazon Express, 6-1 Honest Word, Monday Club, 7-1 Top Wave, 8-1 Clurican, 10-1 Arabian Bold, Child Of The Mist, 14-1 others.

1992: NOBLE INSIGHT 5-10-2 P Scudamore (25-1) M Pipe 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

KILCASH 13l 3rd of 8 to Absalom's Lady in a conditions hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, good), with SHARRIBA (11lb better off) tailed off 7th. AMAZON EXPRESS 20½l 4th of 5 to Bold Boss in the grade II Gerry Feilden Hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good). Previously, ¾l 2nd of 25 to Shawiya in the grade I Triumph Hurdle at Cheltenham last season (2m 1f, good to firm), with CLURICAN (20lb better off) 15½l 15th. ARABIAN BOLD's best recent effort came when ½l 2nd of 5 to Staunch Friend in a conditions hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good), with AMAZON EXPRESS (4lb better off) 8l 3rd. CHILD OF THE MIST neck 2nd of 9 to Cardinal Bird in a handicap hurdle Fakenham (2m 110yd). CLURICAN 3l 2nd of 12 to Gymcrack Sovereign in a handicap hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 1f 110yd, soft). TOP WAVE beat My Senor 15l in a 5-runner handicap hurdle at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, soft). MONDAY CLUB 6½l 3rd of 7 to Sand-Dollar in a handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good).
Selection: AMAZON EXPRESS

2.20 KING GEORGE VI TRIPLEPRINT CHASE C4
(Grade I: £51,780: 3m) (11 runners)
FOR RUNNERS & RIDERS SEE RIGHT

2.50 BONUSFILM WAYWARD LAD NOVICES CHASE C4
(£8,364: 2m 4f 110yd) (10 runners)

501 13-1244 GHIA GNEUIAGH 16 (G,S) (Mrs S Scott) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-4 ... C Llewellyn 98
502 F/24F13 POPPETS PET 9 (D,G) (D Lee) J Mullins 6-11-4 ... S Hodgson 87
503 20-F2P1 RUN UP THE FLAG 23 (CD,F,G,S) (Pell-mell Partners) J Gifford 6-11-4 ... D Murphy 73
504 60-2313 THE GLOW 16 (G) (Mrs T Brown) D Elsworth 5-11-4 ... P Holley 99
505 456-123 BAS DE LAINE 38 (C,D,F,G) (R Bids Ltd) O Sherwood 7-11-0 ... J Osborne —
506 6446-2 DANTE'S NEPHEW 47 (M Pinto) M McCormack 6-11-0 ... R Dunwoody —
507 4653-42 FANTUS 30 (BF,G) (Hunt & Co (Bournemouth) Ltd) P Nicholls 6-11-0 ... G Bradley 84
508 31133/3 HANGOVER 27 (G,S) (Mrs E Hitchins) R Lee 7-11-0 ... A Maguire 74
509 212-3F4 MONSIEUR LE CURE 9 (G,S) (H Brown) J Edwards 7-11-0 ... N Williamson 89
510 22F4-36 MUSIC SCORE 187 (D,G) (Mrs L Taylor) Mrs L Taylor 7-11-0 ... Mr M Armytage —

BETTING: 3-1 The Glow, 5-1 Bas De Laine, Monsieur Le Cure, 6-1 Fantus, Run Up The Flag, 8-1 others.

1992: DUSTY MILLER 6-11-4 M Richards (5-4 fav) S Sherwood 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

GHIA GNEUIAGH's best effort this season came when beating Gandouge Glen 10l in a 9-runner novice chase at Ascot (2m 3f 110yd, good), with THE GLOW (1lb worse off) 4l 3rd, RUN UP THE FLAG fell at the 7th.
POPPETS PET 18½l 3rd of 8 to Easy Buck in the grade II Noel Novices' Chase at Ascot (2m 3f 110yd, good), with MONSIEUR LE CURE (4lb better off) 2l 4th. RUN UP THE FLAG beat Deep Decision 5l in a 7-runner novice chase at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, good). THE GLOW 1½l 3rd of 5 to Crystal Spirit in a novice chase at Cheltenham (2m 5f, good). BAS DE LAINE 4l 3rd of 7 to Jopanini in a handicap hurdle at Ascot (3m, good). FANTUS head 2nd of 7 to Spirit Of Kibris in a novice chase at Newbury (2m 4f, good). POPPETS PET fell at the 1st. MONSIEUR LE CURE's best effort came when 10l 2nd of 4 to One Man in a novice chase at Haydock (2m 4f, good to soft).
Selection: THE GLOW

3.20 TRIPLEPRINT HANDICAP HURDLE
(£4,403: 3m 110yd) (11 runners)

601 P524-45 PRIME DISPLAY 29 (CD,G,S) (C Heath) O Sherwood 7-12-0 ... J Osborne 94
602 1/0/320 PIPERS COPSE 23 (C,D,F,G,S) (Mrs P Locke) G Harwood 11-11-13 ... M Perrett 90
603 5/321-16 PEATSWOOD 8 (C,G,S) (P Taplin) M Chanon 5-11-12 ... Lorna Vincent 89
604 P/022/0 CASH IS KING 23 (B,C,F,B,S) (M Myers) N Henderson 9-11-5 ... G Bradley —
605 02110-0 METAL OISEAU 17 (B,D,B,S) (F Ivory) J Moore 5-11-0 ... A Charlton 98
606 312-530 HURRICANE BLAKE 33 (B,F,G) (P Rylands) D Grissell 5-10-11 ... N Williamson 99
607 350-434 CAIRNCASTLE 38 (D,F,G,S) (Miss S Steel) C Barwell 8-10-8 ... A Maguire 91
608 2310-20 PAMBER PRIORY 17 (D,G,S) (D Makins) T Thomson Jones 10-10-7 ... G Rowe 96
609 050-230 EMERALD SUNSET 23 (D,G) (Mrs G Dawson) Mrs M Long 8-10-4 ... D Gallagher 95
610 43/3U-14 BEYOND OUR REACH 23 (G) (Hunt & Co Ltd) R Hodges 5-10-1 ... R Dunwoody 87
611 3045/P MUSCLETON 13 (M Kingsley) D Elsworth 8-10-0 ... A McCabe —

Long handicap: Muscleton 9-6.

BETTING: 4-1 Peatswood, 5-1 Beyond Our Reach, 6-1 Cairncastle, 7-1 Metal Oiseau, 8-1 others.

1992: SAYYURE 6-11-2 G McCourt (20-1) T Thomson Jones 7 ran

Dreaper's charge can fulfil potential

FROM OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT, DUBLIN

MERRY Gale, considered by many to be a successor to Carvill's Hill in Jim Dreaper's stable, can go some way toward justifying that assessment in the Dennys Gold Medal Chase at Leopardstown on Sunday.

At Punchestown three weeks ago, he convincingly beat the previous winners Atone, Willphone, Doran's Town Lad and Furry Star and, while this will present him with a tougher test, he is taken to pass the examination. The greatest threat is likely to be from Brockley Court, who jumped fluently when extending his winning sequence at Fairyhouse last time.

Dermot Weld intends having only a couple of juvenile hurdlers this season but he is hopeful that at least one, Skipo, will turn out to be Cheltenham festival material.



Weld: hopeful

He makes his debut over jumps in the Ir£12,000 Dennys Juvenile Hurdle, in which the opposition includes four previous winners to test him out. Skipo was good enough on the Flat to win a classic trial at Gowran Park from the subsequent Galtres Stakes runner-up, Alouette, form which suggests his class will make him stand out in this line-up.

Noel Meade was unlucky not to win one of the major autumn handicaps with Shirley's Delight and she could be the one to ask the questions of Skipo here.

The Iliad, a former Ladbroke Hurdle winner, has top weight in the Low Low Handicap Hurdle but, now rising 13, will struggle to give eight years and two stone to the runaway pre-Christmas Navan winner, Steel Mirror.

NEWTON ABBOT

THUNDERER
12.45 Tekla. 1.15 Legal Win. 1.45 Northern Saddler. 2.15 Daves Delight. 2.45 Don't Light Up. 3.15 Connaught Crusader.

GOING: HEAVY

12.45 MID DEVON NOVICES CHASE
(£2,501: 2m 5f) (9 runners)

1 1213 KALANSKI 20 (BF,G,S) C Egerton 7-11-8 ... 2nd pref
2 -031 BARELY BLACK 19 (S) N Babbage 5-11-4 ... Guy Lewis (7)
3 3120 BOLL WEEVIL 25 (D,G,S) O Sherwood 7-11-4 ... Mr J Durkan
4 2F03 ASK THE GOVERNOR 28 (F,G,S) G Balding 7-11-0 ... Craig Thornton
5 006P PARSON'S WAY 19 (B) A Jones 8-11-0 ... G Upton
6 -06P PRINCE VALMY 12 N Ayliffe 8-11-0 ... M Foster
7 4052 TEKLA 19 (S) A Chamberlain 8-11-0 ... A Tory
8 4061 PRUDENT PEGGY 14 (CD,S) R Frost 6-10-13 ... R Darke (7)
9 14-P KIWI VELOCITY 30 (G,S) P Hobbs 6-10-9 ... L Harvey

5-2 Kiwi Velocity, 3-1 Tekla, 7-2 Barely Black, 6-1 Ask The Governor, 13-2 Prudent Peggy, 10-1 Boll Weevil, 25-1 Parson's Way, 33-1 Prince Valmy.

1.15 CHRISTMAS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£1,847: 2m 1f) (11)

1 2144 MECADO 6 (V,D,G,S) F Yardley 6-12-0 ... 2nd pref
2 3401 SANDRO 12 (B,D,F,G,S) R Baker 4-11-4 ... L Harvey
3 0450 BOOGIE BOPPER 12 (V,D,S) M Pipe 4-11-0 ... L Reynolds (7)
4 -33R LEGAL WIN 5 (F) D Barons 5-10-8 ... Mr G Shenkin (7)
5 6-40 COBB GATE 20 (B,CD,G) B Stevens 5-10-6 ... M Stevens
6 00/3- CHARLAFRIVOLA 511 T Greathead 5-10-4 ... 2nd pref
7 P0/3 MAHONG 10 (B) Mrs H Parrott 5-10-0 ... V Slattery
8 0F15 MILDRED SOPHIA 12 (CD,S) N Mitchell 6-10-0 ... Miss S Mitchell (7)
9 -00P SPIRIT LEVEL 12 J Payne 5-10-0 ... Mr R Payne (7)
10 00/P VERRO 18 B Forsey 6-10-0 ... I Shoemark
11 0P-0 PIRATE OF PENZANCE 12 S Horn 5-10-0 ... Mrs C Wonnacott

2-1 Sandro, 7-2 Legal Win, 4-1 Mahong, 5-1 Mildred Sophia, 7-1 Boogie Bopper, 10-1 Cobb Gate, 25-1 Pirate Of Penzance, 33-1 Spirit Level, Verro.

1.45 THURLESTONE HOTEL HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,588: 2m 1f) (7)

1 1353 MOHANA 59 (CD,F,G,S) M Pipe 4-12-0 ... Mr N Moore (7)
2 S124 ATHAR 18 (CD,F,G,S) R Baker 4-11-2 ... L Harvey
3 0141 NORTHERN SADDLER 14 (CD,F,G,S) R Hodges 6-10-10 ... W Irvine
4 5-42 DJEBEL PRINCE 6 (CD,G,S) C Egerton 6-10-5 ... J Railton
5 -F05 MARIOLINO 12 (F,G,S) K Bishop 6-10-0 ... 2nd pref
6 4503 PUNCHBAG 14 (CD,G,S) G Ham 7-10-0 ... G Upton
7 0-62 NOVA SPIRIT 14 (C,F,S) M Saunders 5-10-0 ... Guy Lewis (7)

2-1 Northern Saddler, 5-2 Athar, 7-2 Mohana, 9-2 Djebel Prince, 10-1 Punchbag, 14-1 Nova Spirit.

2.15 ROYAL CASTLE HOTEL NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,220: 2m 6f) (13)

1 1121 HANDY LASS 12 (F,G,S) Mrs A Knight 4-12-0 D Matthews (5)
2 -432 PRINCE OF SALERNO 13 N Gaselee 6-11-3 ... L Harvey
3 2-54 LANSDOWNE 9 G Ham 5-10-13 ... S Mackey
4 -001 DAMCADA 20 (S) D Wintle 5-10-8 ... P McDermott
5 -U06 DAVES DELIGHT 14 Miss S Waterman 7-10-8 ... Mr G Shenkin (7)
6 5-80 TEMPORARY 27 R Frost 8-10-6 ... R Darke (7)
7 -P44 THE CARROT MAN 19 C Egerton 5-10-3 ... G Upton
8 5533 UP ALL NIGHT 12 R Curtis 4-10-2 ... G Crone (7)
9 P-5P RIVER STREAM 18 L Cottrell 6-10-2 ... Mr N Harris
10 5P0- SHERWOOD FOX 221 S Horn 6-10-0 ... Mrs C Wonnacott
11 UP-P BLAKEINGTON 23 (B) N Mitchell 7-10-0 ... Miss S Mitchell (7)
12 -PPP BROWN MYSTIQUE 26 C Broad 7-10-0 ... Jacqui Oliver
13 00-P ESSEN AITCH 14 Mrs H Parrott 4-10-0 ... V Slattery

2-1 Handy Lass, 7-2 Damcada, 5-1 Prince Of Salerno, 6-1 Lansdowne, 8-1 Up All Night, Daves Delight, 12-1 The Carrot Man, 20-1 Temporary, 25-1 River Stream, 33-1 Sherwood Fox, Blakeington, 50-1 Brown Mystique, Essen Aitch.

2.45 LANGSTONE CLIFF HOTEL HANDICAP CHASE (£3,453: 3m 2f 110yd) (7)

1 3241 CATCH THE CROSS 13 (B,C,D,F,G,S) M Pipe 7-11-11 M Foster
2 104F SUNBEAM TALBOT 23 (D,G,S) A Jones 12-10-8 ... G Upton
3 5-23 JAILBREAKER 24 (CD,G,S) B Millman 6-10-1 ... D Salter (5)
4 F231 DON'T LIGHT UP 14 (V,CD,S) P Nicholls 7-10-0 Guy Lewis (7)
5 2513 JIMSTER 31 (D,BF,F,S) C Nash 11-10-0 ... 2nd pref
6 44P6 TRUSTY FRIEND 9 (CD,G,S) C Popham 11-10-0 ... S Burrough
7 5526 CHANCERY BUCK 10 (CD,F,S) R Frost 10-10-0 ... R Darke (7)

7-4 Don't Light Up, 5-2 Catch The Cross, 4-1 Sunbeam Talbot, 11-2 Jailbreaker, 12-1 Trusty Friend, 16-1 Chancery Buck.

3.15 E.B.F. NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(Qualifier: £2,250: 2m 1f) (12)

1 0 BECKFORD 18 N Gaselee 4-11-0 ... L Harvey
2 00/6 BIDDLESTONE BOY 12 D Barons 6-11-0 ... Mr G Shenkin (7)
3 0 BROWN ROBBER 14 Mrs R Henderson 5-11-0 Mr W Henderson
4 1-0 CONNAUGHT CRUSADER 66 (S) P Hobbs 5-11-0 ... M Hourigan
5 0-50 GAVASKAR 47 G Balding 4-11-0 ... E Leonard
6 6-4 HOLD YOUR RANKS 23 R Frost 6-11-0 ... R Darke (7)
7 0/P IT'S CONFIDENTIAL 19 D Barons 6-11-0 ... Mrs C Wonnacott
8 560- KING'S MAVERICK 289 M Pipe 5-11-0 ... M Foster
9 0-8P LIBERTY JAMES 45 Mrs E Brooks 6-11-0 ... Mr R Payne (7)
10 R MANDY LOUISE 14 A Jarvis 5-10-9 ... G McGrath (7)
11 08 SOLO GIRL 14 A Jones 5-10-9 ... G Upton
12 -00P STORMY SUNSET 23 W Dennis 6-10-9 ... Mr N Moore (7)

2-1 Connaught Crusader, 3-1 Hold Your Ranks, 5-1 King's Maverick, 13-2 Gavaskar, 8-1 Biddlestone Boy, 12-1 Beckford, 14-1 Solo Girl, 16-1 Liberty James, 20-1 Brown Robber, 25-1 It's Confidential, 33-1 Mandy Louise, Stormy Sunset.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: C Egerton, 3 winners from 8 runners, 37.5%; M Pipe, 102 from 334, 30.5%; P Hobbs, 24 from 104, 23.1%, P Nicholls, 9 from 41, 22.0%; R Curtis, 3 from 14, 21.4%. B Millman, 3 from 15, 20.0%.

JOCKEYS: A Tory, 8 winners from 56 rides, 14.3%; M Foster, 6 from 43, 14.0%; L Harvey, 7 from 56, 12.5%; Mrs C Wonnacott, 3 from 25, 12.0%, M Hourigan, 3 from 30, 10.0%. Only qualifiers.

HEREFORD

THUNDERER
1.05 Kalanski. 1.35 Project's Mate. 2.05 Baybeejay. 2.35 Lesbet. 3.05 Man Of Mystery. 3.35 Tothewoods.

GOING: HEAVY

1.05 PLUM PUDDING NOVICES CHASE
(£2,437: 2m) (7 runners)

1 1213 KALANSKI 20 (D,BF,G,S) C Egerton 7-12-0 ... J Railton
2 031/ BINKLEY 1383 N Twiston-Davies 7-11-2 ... W Humphreys
3 P/5F PYRO PENNANT 24 D Burchell 8-11-2 ... P McLoughlin (7)
4 5/PU RUN OF WELD 25 (D,G) F Yardley 10-11-2 ... 2nd pref
5 P/0F THE WOODEN HUT 9 (V) Mrs A Price 10-11-2 ... Mr M Jackson
6 3522 JAMES THE FIRST 25 (C,D,F,G,S) P Nicholls 5-11-0 . 2nd pref
7 15-0 PERCY SMOLLETT 28 (C,F) J McConnochie 5-11-0 ... A Tory

10-11 James The First, 11-4 Kalanski, 7-1 Percy Smollett, 12-1 Binkley, 14-1 The Wooden Hut, 16-1 Pyro Pennant, 20-1 Run Of Weld.

1.35 GOOSE NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£1,480: 2m 1f) (9)

1 1121 HANDY LASS 12 (C,F,G,S) Mrs A Knight 4-11-10 ... 2nd pref
2 0-11 PROJECT'S MATE 14 (CD,S) R Brown 6-10-13 P McLoughlin (7)
3 005 FIRST CENTURY 19 B Llewellyn 4-10-6 .. Mr J L Llewellyn (7)
4 2P0P MINT-MASTER 62 (F) B Shaw 8-10-0 ... K Brown (7)
5 0/3- CHARLAFRIVOLA 511 T Greathead 5-10-0 ... W Humphreys
6 6F-0 MUCH 31 Mrs A Price 6-10-0 ... Mr M Jackson
7 0/3 MAHONG 10 (B) Mrs H Parrott 5-10-0 ... 2nd pref
8 P/0- MORIARTY 492 R Price 6-10-0 ... T Jenks (5)
9 5306 PRINCETHORPE 10 B Cambidge 6-10-0 ... D Meredith (3)

5-4 Handy Lass, 5-2 Project's Mate, 8-1 Charlafrivola, First Century, Mahong, 14-1 Mint-Master, 20-1 others.

2.05 MINCE PIE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£1,606: 2m 3f 110yd) (15)

1 2144 MECADO 6 (V,G,S) F Yardley 6-12-0 ... P McLoughlin (7)
2 -F03 BALLERINA ROSE 5 (G) D Burchell 6-11-8 ... V Slattery
3 42-0 HARPLEY 21 (G,S) R Juckes 6-11-0 ... N Juckes (7)
4 23-3 QUALITAIR MEMORY 20 (BF,S) J Akehurst 4-10-10 ... J McCarthy (5)
5 4033 BAYBEEJAY 14 (B,BF,G) R Brotherton 6-10-8 ... T Jenks (5)
6 -33W LEGAL WIN 5 (D,F) D Barons 5-10-8 ... 2nd pref
7 -005 NORTHERN OPTIMIST 24 (CD,F) B Llewellyn 5-10-8 ... Mr J L Llewellyn (7)
8 02-3 CORLY SPECIAL 12 (F) K Burke 6-10-6 ... 2nd pref
9 P34F PEACOCK FEATHER 14 (BF,S) K Burke 5-10-5 ... —
10 8603 NORDIC BEAT 11 (B) W Clay 4-10-4 ... Diane Clay
11 50-6 GIVE ME HOPE 6 R Price 5-10-2 ... J Railton
12 P-0U BEAUFAN 14 (G) B Cambidge 6-10-1 ... D Meredith (3)
13 /P-2 JOKERS PATCH 14 (S) R Baker 6-10-0 ... R Greene
14 -50P THANKSFORTHEOFFER 5 I Jones 5-10-0 ... P McDermott
15 0P-P CATHS FOLLY 21 J Peacock 6-10-0 ... —

4-1 Ballerina Rose, 11-2 Mecado, 7-1 Baybeejay, Jokers Patch, 8-1 Legal Win, Qualitair Memory, 10-1 Harpley, 14-1 others.

2.35 CHELTENHAM AND THREE COUNTIES CLUB HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,358: 3m 2f) (8)

1 81-6 BUONARROTI 18 (G,S) J Old 6-12-0 ... 2nd pref
2 4-05 CAPTAIN DOLFORD 9 (S) D Gandolfo 6-10-12 ... J Railton
3 0-01 HAPPY HORSE 13 (S) Mrs J Renfree-Barons 6-10-5 ... A Tory
4 -3P1 LESBET 24 (F,G,S) R Curtis 8-10-3 ... D Morris
5 P0-4 DECIDED 14 (F,G,S) R Lee 10-10-2 ... P McLoughlin
6 231- RIMOUSKI 145F (G) B Cambidge 5-10-2 ... Mr J Cambidge
7 UR-4 WICKET 9 (G,S) M Wilkinson 8-10-0 ... P Ward (7)
8 6341 VERY LITTLE 9 (S) R Alner 5-10-0 ... Mr P Henley (7)

11-8 Happy Horse, 100-30 Lesbet, 4-1 Rimouski, 7-1 Decided, 8-1 Buonarroti, 10-1 Very Little, Wicket, 14-1 Captain Dolford.

3.05 GREEN DRAGON HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,931: 3m 1f 110yd) (10)

1 2P-5 AUCTION LAW 65 (CD,F,G,S) D Barons 9-11-10 ... 2nd pref
2 -111 MAN OF MYSTERY 6 (CD,G,S) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-4 (7ex) ... W Humphreys
3 24-5 DIAMOND FORT 41 (D,S) J McConnochie 8-10-7 ... 2nd pref
4 -642 NEW HALEN 5 (CD,F,G,S) A James 12-10-6 ... D Meredith (3)
5 F231 DON'T LIGHT UP 14 (V,S) P Nicholls 7-10-4 ... 2nd pref
6 F24- WOODY WILL 227 (F) O Sherwood 7-10-3 ... J McCarthy (5)
7 BP-0 LEAGAUNE 23 (D,S) T Casey 11-10-0 ... 2nd pref
8 4F64 SAM SHORROCK 13 (B,CD,G,S) G Thorner 11-10-0 ... Mr G Johnson Houghton
9 44P6 TRUSTY FRIEND 9 (CD,G,S) C Popham 11-10-0 ... 2nd pref
10 235/ CLONROCHE GAZETTE 683 (S) Miss D Baker 13-10-0 2nd pref

11-10 Man Of Mystery, 4-1 Don't Light Up, 5-1 Auction Law, 7-1 Woody Will, 8-1 Diamond Fort, 10-1 New Halen, 16-1 Sam Shorrock, 20-1 others.

3.35 DUCKLING NOVICES HURDLE
(£1,480: 2m 3f 110yd) (10)

1 -001 TOTHEWOODS 23 (S) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-7 .. W Humphreys
2 6001 ROCKY BAY 19 (S) B Llewellyn 4-11-2 ... Mr J L Llewellyn (7)
3 P0-0 ATHASSEL ABBEY 90 R Lee 7-11-0 ... P McLoughlin (7)
4 00/6 BIDDLESTONE BOY 12 D Barons 6-11-0 ... 2nd pref
5 P-P CARLSAN 31 Mrs A Price 7-11-0 ... Mr M Jackson
6 00P- GRANNY'S LAD 264 Mrs S Johnson 6-11-0 ... W Marston
7 0/P IT'S CONFIDENTIAL 19 D Barons 6-11-0 ... 2nd pref
8 04-0 MARANO 17 Mrs N Sharpe 5-11-0 ... R Greene
9 0/34 TALBOT 23 C Egerton 7-11-0 ... J Railton
10 00-P ESSEN AITCH 14 Mrs H Parrott 4-10-9 ... 2nd pref

5-4 Tothewoods, 3-1 Talbot, 5-1 Rocky Bay, 16-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: R Alner, 3 winners from 7 runners, 42.9%; O Sherwood, 7 from 18, 38.9%. N Twiston-Davies, 11 from 35, 31.4%; D Burchell, 12 from 46, 26.1%. P Nicholls, 3 from 15, 20.0%, Mrs H Parrott, 3 from 16, 18.8%.

JOCKEYS: Diane Clay, 3 winners from 9 rides, 33.3%, J McCarthy, 3 from 9, 33.3%. Only qualifiers.

TRAINERS' PREFERENCES

Listed are the first preferences for horses with more than one engagement:

Another Coral 2.30 Wetherby; Auction Law 2.40 Wincanton; Barton Bank 2.20 Kempton; Beyond Our Reach 3.20 Kempton; Biddlestone Boy 3.15 Newton Abbot; Buonarroti 1.40 Wincanton; Charlafrivola 1.35 Hereford; Clonroche Gazette 2.30 Huntingdon; Corly Special 12.55 Market Rasen.

Deep Decision 1.30 Wetherby; Diamond Fort 3.05 Market Rasen; Don't Light Up 2.45 Newton Abbot; Eden Sunset 2.50 Sedgefield; Essen Aitch 2.15 Newton Abbot; Golden Reverie 1.10 Ayr; Gray's Ellergy 2.00 Huntingdon; Gute Nacht 12.50 Sedgefield; Handy Lass 2.15 Newton Abbot; Hello Vanos 12.50 Sedgefield; High Padre 1.50 Sedgefield; It's Confidential 3.15 Newton Abbot, James The First 1.10 Wincanton; Jimster 2.30 Huntingdon.

Kalanski 1.05 Hereford; Kingly Look 2.50 Sedgefield, Leagaune 2.30 Huntingdon; Legal Win 1.15 Newton Abbot; Loch Garanne 2.30 Market Rasen; Mahong 1.15 Newton Abbot; Mariolino 1.40 Wincanton; Mecado 2.05 Hereford, Ned The Hall 2.00 Huntingdon; Nevada Gold 2.20 Kempton; Nina Brothers 1.50 Sedgefield; Our Slimbridge 2.30 Market Rasen; Peatswood 3.20 Kempton.

Run Of Weld 12.55 Market Rasen; See More Indians 1.15 Kempton; Spoonhill Wood 12.30 Huntingdon; Supposing 2.00 Market Rasen, The Green Fool 1.10 Ayr; Top Wave 1.45 Kempton; Trusty Friend 2.45 Newton Abbot; Vasiliev 1.00 Wetherby; Woody Will 3.05 Hereford.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Wolverhampton: 2.05 Dynamic George. 3.05 Rocketeer, 4.05 Shadow Jury.

SCRATCHINGS: All engagements (dead): Harlows Boy, Portite Sailor, Midland Lad, Karenomore, Golden Ancona, Arthurlily.

AYR

THUNDERER
12.40 Princess Maxine. 1.10 It's The Pits. 1.40 Carousel Rocket. 2.10 My Ballyboy. 2.40 Preoblakensky. 3.10 Rhosilli Bay.

Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.40 EBRO.

GOING: SOFT

12.40 AULD LANG SYNE NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,411: 2m) (11 runners)

1 U42- CAITHNESS CLOUD 317 C Parker 5-11-4 ... B Storey
2 60-0 CROFTON LAKE 54 J Dixon 5-11-4 ... Mr R Hale (7)
3 P6P/ FLOATER 994 P Monteith 10-11-4 ... A Orkney
4 36-6 KNOW-NO-NO 31 M Hammond 4-11-4 ... D Bentley (5)
5 PRINCE BALTASAR N Bycroft 4-11-4 ... T Reed
6 300- DANCING STREET 346 T Craig 5-10-13 ... C Hawkins
7 00 LA DOUTELLE 18 Mrs S Bradburne 6-10-13 ... —
8 000- LADYSBELOU 233 M Barnes 5-10-13 ... A Dobbin
9 PRINCESS MAXINE 26F Mrs M Reveley 4-10-13 ... R Hodge
10 F-53 THE WHIRLIE WEEVIL 11 G Richards 5-10-13 ... M Moloney
11 0-3P THISTLE PRINCESS 19 G Richards 4-10-13 ... B Harding (7)

9-4 Princess Maxine, 3-1 The Whirlie Weevil, 5-1 Caithness Cloud, 6-1 Thistle Princess, 10-1 Dancing Street, Know-No-No, 16-1 others.

1.10 TENNENTS GOLD BIER HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,918: 2m 4f) (12)

1 1-03 STARSTREAK 46 (D,F) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-10 ... G Lee (7)
2 1-13 IT'S THE PITS 11 (D,BF,G,S) L Lungo 6-11-9 ... T Reed
3 5F51 THE GREEN FOOL 7 (D,F,G,S) V Thompson 6-11-9 (6ex) ... A Dobbin
4 2020 SWEET CITY 11 (CD,S) G Richards 8-11-6 ... Mr R Hale (7)
5 31/P1 NODDLE 10 (D,G,S) L Lungo 5-11-6 ... T Reed
6 0441 DIG DEEPER 11 (S) J J O'Neill 6-11-6 ... J Callaghan
7 3-10 TRUMP 19 (CD,G) C Parker 4-11-2 ... B Storey
8 F-125 MASTER OF TROY 46 (G,S) C Parker 5-11-1 .. Mr A Parker (7)
9 560- ELBIN 310 (C,S) P Monteith 4-10-2 ... A Orkney
10 0550 HAMANAKA 7 (S) J Love 4-10-1 ... Mr S Love
11 0620 RED TEMPEST 7 J Goldie 5-10-0 ... F Perratt (5)
12 BF-0 GOLDEN REVERIE 21 (CD,G) B Mactaggart 5-10-0 .. M Moloney

7-2 Noddle, 9-2 Starstreak, 5-1 It's The Pits, 6-1 The Green Fool, 8-1 Trump, 10-1 Dig Deeper, Sweet City, 12-1 others.

1.40 TENNENTS LAGER HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,163: 4m 1f) (10)

1 12-F TARTAN TYRANT 11 (C,G,S) G Richards 7-11-10 .. M Moloney
2 3F53 OVER THE DEEL 11 (C,F,G,S) J Johnson 7-11-7 ... A Orkney
3 P-84 CAROUSEL ROCKET 18 (C,F,G,S) M Hammond 10-11-2 ... D Bentley (5)
4 3151 INVERMATE 16 (B,F,G,S) L Lungo 8-10-7 ... T Reed
5 4-55 FORTH AND TAY 39 (G,S) Mrs S Bradburne 11-10-7 ... P Williams (5)
6 6645 CLONROCHE DRILLER 18 (G,S) Mrs S Bramall 8-10-5 ... Mr D Parker (7)
7 3U2P SCOTTISH GOLD 16 (BF,F,B,S) Miss L Perratt 9-10-4 .. N Mann
8 F-0P BUCKLE IT UP 38 (S) A Mactaggart 8-10-4 ... Mr D Mactaggart
9 0252 TRUELY ROYAL 10 (G) J Charlton 9-10-3 ... B Storey
10 /FF-0 RAWYARDS BRIG 21 (S) Mrs D Thomson 10-10-0 ... A Dobbin

5-2 Tartan Tyrant, 3-1 Invermate, 5-1 Truely Royal, 6-1 Over The Deel, 8-1 Carousel Rocket, Scottish Gold, 14-1 others.

2.10 AYR JUVENILE HANDICAP HURDLE
(3-Y-O: £2,583: 2m) (7)

1 111F MY BALLYBOY 17 (D,G,S) A Bailey 12-0 ... N Mann
2 P15 ERBIL 7 (D,F) L Lungo 11-3 ... F Perratt (5)
3 2U3 DEVILRY 44 G Moore 11-1 ... J Callaghan
4 1205 ASTRAC TRIO 21 (CD,G) P Monteith 11-1 ... A Dobbin
5 4033 COEUR BATTANT 27 (BF) N Tinkler 10-11 ... E Husband (5)
6 2064 MISTROY 9 M Hammond 10-9 ... D Bentley (5)
7 044 NEGD 27 (B) S Kettlewell 10-3 ... B Storey

3-1 Coeur Battant, 7-2 My Ballyboy, 4-1 Erbil, 6-1 Devilry, 10-1 Negd, 12-1 others.

2.40 GALLOWAY PONY CLUB NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£2,801: 2m 4f) (12)

1 00 THE LORRYMAN 16 W Reed 5-12-0 ... F Perratt (5)
2 0320 ABLE PLAYER 23 (B,F,G,S) Mrs S Bramall 6-11-10 J Burke (5)
3 00P1 QUIET MONEY 5 (S) M Hammond 6-11-9 (7ex) .. D Bentley (5)
4 53P- PREOBLAKENSKY 210 (G,S) G Richards 6-11-8 ... M Moloney
5 P0-3 CAITHNESS PRINCE 44 (G) C Parker 7-11-6 ... B Storey
6 /3F-V LOTHIAN PILOT 11 (G) L Lungo 6-11-0 ... T Reed
7 3/P ROUGHSIDE 27 A Mactaggart 8-11-0 ... Mr D Mactaggart
8 4285 FLING IN SPRING 21 Mrs S Bradburne 7-10-9 .. P Williams (5)
9 21/46 MR OPTIMISTIC 19 (G,S) J J O'Neill 6-10-7 ... R Hodge
10 6001 EBRO 7 (D,G) V Thompson 7-10-7 (7ex) ... A Dobbin
11 32/0- MAG RAMBLER 381 N Bycroft 8-10-5 ... A Orkney
12 4-22 LADY'S ISLAND 24 J Charlton 5-10-0 ... J Callaghan

4-1 Caithness Prince, 9-2 Ebro, 6-1 Able Player, 7-1 Quiet Money, 8-1 others.

3.10 OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE
(£1,716: 2m) (16)

1 4- ADDINGTON BOY 303 G Richards 5-11-0 ... B Harding (7)
2 AFRICAN GOLD L Lungo 5-11-0 ... F Perratt (5)
3 BISHOPS CASTLE T Carr 5-11-0 ... M Clarke (7)
4 0 D'ARBLAY STREET 18 W Kemp 4-11-0 ... S McDougall (7)
5 0 DERWENT LAD 44 M Barnes 4-11-0 ... A Dobbin
6 HAGELE Miss L Perratt 4-11-0 ... T Reed
7 R4 KING CREOLE 9 J Berry 4-11-0 ... S Haworth (7)
8 LOMOND SPRINGS J Barclay 4-11-0 ... D J Moffatt (3)
9 4 NAUGHTY FUTURE 44 J J O'Neill 4-11-0 ... M Moloney
10 PRESS TO STING A Mactaggart 4-11-0 ... Mr D Mactaggart
11 00- RALLEGIO 331 P Monteith 4-11-0 ... A Orkney
12 2-2 RHOSSILI BAY 80 (BF) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-0 ... R Hodge
13 RIGHT TERM J Johnson 4-11-0 ... M Molloy (7)
14 SPY DESSA T Carr 5-11-0 ... N Mann
15 0- SHATRAVIV 258 J Charlton 5-10-9 ... B Storey
16 SKI PATH N Bycroft 4-10-9 ... J Callaghan

7-4 Rhossili Bay, 7-2 King Creole, 6-1 Addington Boy, Right Term, 10-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley, 28 winners from 77 runners, 36.4%, G Richards, 51 from 230, 22.2%; Mrs S Bradburne, 16 from 94, 17%, G Moore, 15 from 92, 16.3%; M Hammond, 8 from 53, 15.1%.

JOCKEYS: A Dobbin, 7 winners from 39 rides, 17.9%, F Perratt, 4 from 24, 16.7%, Mr J Bradburne, 8 from 51, 15.7%; B Storey, 18 from 152, 11.8%; P Williams, 5 from 43, 11.6%.

Test rivalry renewed after 23 years

South Africa face daunting task on historic return

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN MELBOURNE

EVERYTHING South Africa's cricketers have been involved in, these past two years, has to some extent been epoch-making, and there will come a time when the emotion fades and each new Test match is just another game. Boxing Day in Melbourne is not that time.

Since their readmission to the Test-playing fraternity, South Africa have met West Indies, India and Sri Lanka, unthinkable opposition both before and during isolation. Now they are reunited with Australia, their last opponents before cricket bowed to the inevitable, banishing potentially one of its greatest teams to the wilderness.

Quite how powerful the South Africa of the Seventies might have been can only be the subject of conjecture. Graeme Pollock and Barry Richards would probably have aspired to the game's gods, for their batting was blessed. Mike Procter was capable of all-round deeds to rival Sobers, of one generation, and Botham, of the next. And Ali Bacher, though more modest a player, might have become one of the most successful captains of them all.

Each has dealt with the sense of loss in his own way and long ago wearied of regrets. But on Sunday, when this three-Test series begins before a crowd expected to exceed 50,000, Procter and Bacher will be close enough to the action to be forgiven a few wistful thoughts.

Procter is the cricket manager of the new South Africans, who are ravaged by injuries, their chance here widely derided, but whose spirit, under this most positive of men, is unquestioned. Bacher visits as managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, to witness further fulfilment of his work as dexterous politician, irrepressible ambassador for his game and crusader for the deprived of his country.

Before leaving Johannesburg this week Bacher, as ever, wanted more than anything to talk of his township development programme, before, a shade more reluctantly, he spoke of the past.

Bacher made 73, the highest score of his brief Test career, in his last innings, at Port Elizabeth early in 1970. His innings ended only when his back foot slipped and dislodged a bail. It was a measure of how his team had overwhelmed Australia that Bacher's proved to be Graham McKenzie's only wicket of the four-Test series, and it cost him 333 runs.

"Eighteen months later, I was named as captain for our scheduled tour to Australia," Bacher recalled. "But we never got to go. I have never watched a game at Melbourne, let alone the big Boxing Day match."

Procter's seven Tests were all against Australia. One was drawn, the other six were won by wide margins and, of the 41 wickets taken by Procter at only 15 runs apiece, six came in the final innings of the farewell game at Port Elizabeth. "I was running a high temperature but I had to bowl because Peter Pollock had pulled a hamstring," he remembered. "I bowled as quick then as at any time in my career, and that was unquestionably the finest side I ever played in."

Coincidences are everywhere. Procter's first Test wicket was taken as a 20-year-



Procter: great all-rounder

old, only four months after he had cleaned the pads of Sobers and Kanhai as a dressing-room attendant during England's 1966 Test with West Indies at The Oval. His victim was Bob Simpson, now his Australian counterpart.

On Sunday, too, Simpson will have his special memory, for the last occasion these teams met in Melbourne, 30 Christmases ago, was his first game as Australia's captain and he made the winning hit on the fifth morning.

Informed opinion doubts whether this match will get into a fifth day on a pitch likely to be uneven in bounce and offering rich pickings to whichever pace attack keeps its sense of direction.

Neither team has many selection doubts, though for different reasons. Australia, having easily disposed of New Zealand, have no cause to make changes, while South Africa have no scope. Their injury situation is so bad that Procter predicts, only half in jest, he will have to play himself if anybody breaks down during net practice tomorrow morning.

Brett Schultz, has not travelled to Australia, where Brian McMillan, the team's pivotal player, and Jonty Rhodes, no mean batsman and the world's most exciting outfielder, have both picked up injuries. Neither will play in Melbourne and South Africa's resources cannot cope with such losses.

"We only have six batsmen left, so that much is easy," Procter said. However, the form of his openers, Hudson and Kirsten, is such a concern that Kepler Wessels, the captain, could return to the head of the order, where he played his 24 Tests for Australia in the early Eighties.

Allan Donald, deprived of his striking partner, Schultz, has not bowled effectively so far but he remains South Africa's most likely match-winner in conditions which might suit him, and the final place in the side will go either to Craig Matthews or Fanie de Villiers. "We've gone off the boil, there's no arguing with that," Procter said. "Injuries are partly to blame but we have played poorly, too."

What they have conspicuously not done is complain, even when confronted by demonstrably bad pitches, rough outfields and an itinerary which sees them arrive in Melbourne this afternoon, less than 48 hours prior to the start of the series. Their indifferent performance in the field yesterday in Brisbane, where four catches were missed, meant that the final warm-up match with Queensland ended in a draw.

If they are to puncture the confidence of the Australians it may have to be here and now, because the New Year Test in Sydney looks sure to be played on a pitch tailored for Shane Warne. Come the end of January, and the final Test at Adelaide, it may all be too late, for this is a team under stress and the plausibility of Procter's ambition to make them the best in the world inside two years is about to undergo its most severe examination yet.

AUSTRALIA (from): M A Taylor, M J Slater, D C Boon, M E Waugh, A R Border (captain), D R Martyn, I A Healy, S K Warne, T B A May, C J McDermott, P R Reiffel, G D McGrath.

SOUTH AFRICA (from): A C Hudson, G Kirsten, K C Wessels (captain), W J Cronje, D J Cullinan, D J Richardson, D J Callaghan, P L Symcox, O B Rundle, A A Donald, P S de Villiers, R P Snell, C R Matthews.

Time for a change of hands

Simon Wilde looks to past and present and suggests a novel way to combat the dangerous and devious leg spinner



Shane Warne, the destroyer of England last summer, bowled the ball of the year to dismiss Mike Gatting at Old Trafford in June. Photograph: Julian Herbert

England surrendered 34 wickets to him in their last six Test matches. New Zealand squandered 35 to him in their last six. Dean Jones recently warned the South Africans that if they did not improve their technique against spin they would be destroyed by him in the Test series with Australia which starts in Melbourne on Sunday. He has already taken more Test wickets in a year than any other spinner and if he could, somehow, summon up another 15 at Melbourne he would break Dennis Lillee's world record of 85 victims in 1981. But how can you play Shane Warne?

Australia's most dangerous bowler will always bewitch and bewilder some batsmen — there is not much you can do for the likes of Dipak Patel, who in the recent Test at Brisbane shouldered arms to Warne and was bowled through his legs — but even technically accomplished per-

WARNE IN 1993

Test matches

Versus	Venue	1st Inns	2nd Inns
W Indies	Sydney	1-116	—
	Adelaide	0-11	1-18
	Perth	0-51	—
N Zealand	Christchurch	3-23	4-63
	Wellington	2-59	2-49
	Auckland	4-8	2-54
England	Old Trafford	4-51	4-86
	Lord's	4-57	4-102
	Trent Bridge	3-74	3-108
	Headingley	1-43	0-63
	Edgbaston	1-63	5-82
	Oval	2-70	3-78
N Zealand	Perth	1-90	0-23
	Hobart	3-36	6-31
	Brisbane	4-66	4-59
Total	71 wickets, average 23.01		

formers are posed with a serious dilemma. Graham Gooch said that when Mike Gatting was bowled round his legs by Warne's first ball in the Old Trafford Test in June he did everything, technically, that he should have done. So how can you play Shane Warne?

Well, what about a switch-hitter? In baseball, switching is a common tactic. By switching from a right-handed stance and grip to those of a left-hander, a batter can minimise the threat presented by the in-swinging curve ball of the pitcher, most of whom are right-armers. A batsman who could do the same thing would certainly negate many of the problems posed by the leg-spinner — Gatting might even have kept out *that* ball.

The idea may not be as strange as it sounds. The reverse sweep, the stroke so beloved of Gatting and Ian Botham and so hated by Peter May, the former chairman of selectors, is a modest attempt at switch-hitting. The batsman does not actually address the bowler any differently, but changes to a left-handed grip as the ball is bowled.

It is a tactic that can be adopted for other strokes, as Gooch demonstrated for Essex in August. During an unbeaten century against Worcestershire, Gooch employed a reverse pull after being frustrated by the negative tactics of Illingworth, the slow left-armer, who was going over the wicket to bowl wide of the leg stump.

Only one man, though, is known to have practised switch-hitting on the first-class cricket field, and he tried it just once. George Hunt, who played for Somerset between the wars, found the inswingers of Nottinghamshire's Bill Voce so awkward during a match at Taunton in 1930 that he reversed his stance and played him left-handed, reverting to his orthodox right-handed technique against the other bowlers. The strange thing was, Voce was a left-arm bowler, so when Hunt switched the ball was moving away from him. Hunt scored only 25 runs in the match.

There have been many successful switch-hitters in major league baseball. Arguably the best were Micky Mantle, who played for the New York Yankees in their 1950s heyday, and Pete Rose, of the Cincinnati Reds.

Ralph Rago, an American baseball coach based in Britain, thinks there is no reason why switch-hitting could not be employed in cricket. "In cricket, most of the bowlers seem to be right-handed so the batsmen might have an advantage if they switch ... I have wondered why they don't bat left-handed."

Greg Chappell, the former Australian captain, moved 90 degrees in favour of the idea when he suggested last summer that he would play Warne by opening up his stance and facing him square on, in the fashion of Peter Willey in his later career.

Ian Chappell, who like his brother has tried his hand at baseball, does not reject the idea of switch-hitting but feels that for a cricketer to become adept he would need to practise from an early age. He also feels that for England, in their present parlous state, there are some slightly more straightforward alternatives.

"Batting properly would help," he said. "If you're coached properly the footwork should be natural and the spin doesn't make a lot of difference. I just don't understand the mentality of letting balls go. A ball that you can get to on the full outside leg stump is one that deserves to be put away. It's typical of English cricket to complicate a very simple thing. What's wrong with hitting the ball?" Now that *would* be a switch.

Ferrari's powerful test poses threat to Williams

BY OLIVER HOLT

AS RON Dennis tries to persuade Alain Prost to join Mika Hakkinen at McLaren next season, and Benetton procrastinate over a partner for Michael Schumacher, Ferrari, who appear to have a settled driver line-up for 1994, have powered forward as realistic challengers to Williams in the year ahead.

Conventional wisdom always held that the Italian team would be far more competitive with a passive car — the more cynical suggested this was one of the prime motives behind the banning of active suspension next season — and their predictions appear to have been partly vindicated by Ferrari's performance in the first important post-season test at Barcelona.

Gerhard Berger, who will partner Jean Alesi for a second successive season, set the joint fastest time at the test in a new car designed John Barnard at the Ferrari base in Surrey. His 1min 18.35sec was more than four seconds faster than his grid time in an active car for the Spanish grand prix in May, and only four thousandths of a second adrift of Hill's second place qualifying time for the same race.

Ferrari's performance may prompt Dennis to redouble his efforts to persuade Prost to renounce his retirement but the four-time world champion yesterday appeared to distance himself from the sport by launching an outspoken attack on its governing body and his long-time nemesis, Ayrton Senna, who has taken his place at Williams.

"I have the impression that some people want to see drivers doing stupid things on the track because it makes for a better show," Prost said. "Someone like Bernie Ecclestone, the president of the Formula One Constructors' Association, did not like to see a guy like me in the sport because I am not stupid about risk and, when I see something is wrong, I say so."

Prost also poured scorn on Senna's public gesture of reconciliation after the last race of 1993 in Adelaide, when the Brazilian hauled him up on to the top step of the podium with him.

"I don't believe that was completely sincere," Prost said. "I tried to make it up with him several times and he always refused.

"As a racing driver, Ayrton has fantastic ability but, on a human level, he is more false than anyone I have ever known. Because of his contact with Williams, to give you a small example, he knew I was going to announce my retirement at Estoril. So what does he do? An hour or so before, he calls his own press conference to say he is leaving McLaren.

"But there was grand prix racing before Prost and Senna arrived and there will be grand prix racing long after we have gone. Two weeks after the Berlin Wall came down, no one was talking about it any more."

☐ The Simtek team, which will make its Formula One debut next season, said that its Simtek S941 car had passed its opening track test with flying colours. David Brabham, the team's Australian driver, completed ten trouble-free laps at Silverstone. "We were all very encouraged by this first outing, during which the car did everything we asked of it," he said.

Wells joining Derbyshire

COLIN Wells, the Sussex all-rounder, has signed a three-year contract with Derbyshire, who have become reconciled to losing John Morris, their England batsman. Wells, 33, who had a benefit last summer, made his debut for Sussex in 1979 and was capped three years later.

"Colin is the type of player we have been after for a while and tactically he will give us more options," Kim Barnett, the Derbyshire captain, said yesterday. "He has had a back problem for the last two years but he's fit again now." Wells is the county's second major signing since last summer, following the arrival in October of England all-rounder Philip DeFreitas.

Morris, 29, who asked to be released from the remaining year of his contract at the end of last season, is now expected to join Durham. He has made 33 centuries for the county, for whom he made his debut in 1982, and scored a career-best 229 against Gloucestershire last season.

Morris, who is captaining Griqualand West in South Africa, has won three England caps and was selected for the 1990-91 tour of Australia where he accompanied David Gower on the infamous flight in a Tiger Moth.

"John didn't feel that he fitted in any more and that he needed to make a fresh start. But there was no ill feeling," Barnett said.

Salim Malik has been recalled to the Pakistan team for the first of the three one-day internationals with Zimbabwe starting in Karachi today.

Britain take strong squad to Norway

BY ALIX RAMSAY

BRITAIN will take a smaller yet more competitive team to the 1994 Paralympics in Lillehammer, Norway, in the hope of improving their tally of five medals from the last Games. The squad, announced yesterday, has had to fulfil more stringent selection procedures but Barry Schofield, general secretary of the British Paralympics Association, is confident "they will do us proud".

The eight-strong alpine team includes Matthew Stockford and Richard Burt, Britain's medal-winners from the 1992 Paralympics in Tignes. Stockford, who won three bronze medals, has had little race practice this year but, with a new ski-bob, his training is going well.

Burt, who won silver and bronze in the partially sighted category, has had a difficult year because of a knee injury but will back on the snow in the New Year. In the French championships earlier this year, Mike Hammond and Jon Morris, Britain's leading amputee skiers, came back with four gold medals between them. However, they will find it tougher in Lillehammer in one of the most competitive events of the Games.

Graham Nugent and Ed Suckling may also find life harder, in the LW1 class. Depending on the number of LW1 skiers in Norway, they could find their group combined with a less severely disabled class that would limit their chances of success.

Britain's Nordic team of three is led by Pete Young, in the B1 (blind) category. Nerves were his undoing in Tignes but with regular training trips to Norway behind him, he now knows the terrain and people and regards the country as his second home, which should ease the pressure.

BRITAIN SQUAD: Alpine: Richard Burt, B3, Graham Nugent, 4 track, Ed Suckling, 4 track; Mike Hammond, amputee; Jon Morris, amputee, Brian Harding, sit-ski, Matthew Stockford, sit-ski; James Barker, sit-ski. Nordic: Mike Brace, B1; Pete Young, B1; James Denton, B1

Lishman excels at Orange Bowl

FROM ANGELA BUXTON IN MIAMI

AS THE 47th edition of the Orange Bowl — known as the world junior tennis championships — moves to a climax here this weekend there has been mixed fortune for British players. In the 14 and under age group, where fresh talent is rarely seen to flower often for the first time internationally, only one British boy managed to get through a round. However, in the girls event, Fiona Lishman, from County Durham, distinguished herself by winning four matches in reaching the quarter-finals.

En route Lishman excelled herself by beating a seed, Meike Frohlich, of Germany, 6-3, 6-2. But despite catching Anne Gaelle Sidot, the favourite from France, on a bad day, Lishman lost 6-3, 6-1. It was a far cry from last year, when Lishman was knocked out in the first round.

In the past 12 months, however, she and others have benefited considerably by the Lawn Tennis Association's change of policy to step up international experience. It has allowed British youngsters the same opportunities as their peers from other countries and exposed them repeatedly to fierce competition of this type early in their careers.

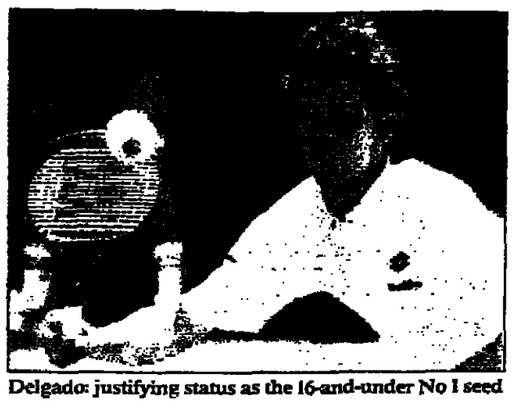
Hannah Collin, a 11-year-old from Thames Ditton, made a good impression, arriving as a late entry and winning three rounds of qualifying. Having lost in the second round of the main draw, she won another match in the consolation event. She played seven matches in five days, winning five without much time to acclimatise.

Sharon Walsh, her coach, who also works with the LTA, said it had been an experiment which had worked particularly well. Collin's parents had approached the LTA about the possibility of their daughter, who has enjoyed some good results on the 14-and-under Rover junior circuit final stages this year, joining the British team if they footed the bill.

"Hannah's mother took the initiative by making the original suggestion," Walsh said. "Both Olga [Morozova, [the national coach] and I have agreed that when it comes to next year maybe it is a good idea to bring a young player. She is certainly not alone in her age group."

In the older age groups — of 16 and under and 18 and under — only one British player remains. Amanda Wainwright, the No 8 seed in the 18 and under girls event, lost unexpectedly in the second round to Celine Begbeder, of France, 6-4, 6-2. However, Jamie Delgado, from Warwickshire, remains favourite to win the 16 and under boys title, having been seeded No 1. Last year he reached the semi-finals.

The Americans are starting to show concern over the results of their juniors. Despite the good weather and an abundance of sophisticated tennis academies in Florida, not one boy or girl in the 14 and under division survived the quarter-final stage.



Delgado: justifying status as the 16-and-under No 1 seed

British riflemen train in gusty conditions

BY OUR RIFLE SHOOTING CORRESPONDENT

THE Fairfield Great Britain rifle team, which will be defending the world long-range championship at Trentham, New Zealand, in January 1995, departs on Monday a year ahead of time to compete in the New Zealand championships and Queen's Prize.

The squad includes most of the 1992 winning team, but many of them have not shot in New Zealand. The main object of the trip is to familiarise them with the Trentham Range's difficult wind conditions.

On the way home, on January 14, the team will visit at Perth to defend the Australia Trophy in the Commonwealth team championship, which Britain has won four times in succession.

The team is captained again by Colin Cheshire, the bursar of Oundle School and vice-chairman of the National Rifle Association, and the main coach is Arthur Clarke, a former Commonwealth gold medal-winner and Bisley Grand Aggregate winner.

The four team members, all experienced international shots, are Nick Hinchliffe, Paul Kent, Bill Richards and Martin Townsend.

The Palma match, begun in 1876 to celebrate the centenary of American independence, will now take place every four years.

The 1995 entry so far includes Britain, the United States, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, East and Central Africa, the Channel Islands and Europe.

Six extra people are in the 1994 squad, three of whom will be selected at the end of the tour for the 1995 team.

TEAM: C Cheshire (Hampshire, captain), M Pattinson (Warwicks); J Carmichael (Worcs), G Barnett (Norfolk), J Bellringer (Surrey), P Bromley (Kent), D Calvert (RAF and Ireland), A Chown (Surrey), D Coleman (Surrey), A Jones (Warwicks); A Lothian (Surrey), J Measser (Sussex); S Penrose (Essex); D Richards (Hants), A Ringer (Norfolk); A Tucker (Surrey); J Warburton (Yorks).

TRIALS (three to be selected): S Kent (Surrey), J Langley (Devon), J Lewis (Norfolk), A Luckman (Somerset); Mrs M Pugsley (Devon) J Pugsley (Devon), J Underwood (Surrey)

هكذا من الاصل

Ferguson's champion memories

THERE is no argument that Manchester United have been the team of the year. *Just Champion* by Alex Ferguson (Manchester United Publications, £10.99) may not be the football book of the year but, as the inside story of United's first championship for 26 years, it is riveting reading.

It is, inevitably, a celebration and will have huge appeal to United fans but, for neutrals, it is more than just a celebration. The chapters on Eric Cantona and Ryan Giggs make it unmissable.

It has not been a vintage year for football books but there have been some interest-

BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS

ing biographies. *Gary Lineker, Strikingly Different* by Colin Malam (Arrow, £4.99) is a fine book tracing Lineker's career from Leicester City to Grampus Eight and from reticence to a growing outspokenness.

If there is a criticism, it is that Malam could have paid more attention to Lineker's critics inside the game. Graham Taylor was not just being wilfully blind in his doubts about the player. Getting some of the other managers to go public, however, was almost certainly impossible. Nobody wants to be seen throwing stones at an icon.

Arrow have also brought out an updated paperback version of Lee Chapman's diary, *More Than A Match* (£3.99). A cut above the potboilers that too many player's books resemble, the view of Cantona from the Leeds United dressing room makes fascinating reading alongside Ferguson's effort. Overall, though, Chapman tends to pull his punches.

Tony Williams, the editor of the old *Barclays Club Directory*, now the *Endsleigh League Club Directory*, has a growing imprint in his own right and two recent publications will appeal to historians and statisticians. Ivan Ponting's *The FA Cup Final, A Post-War History* (Tony Williams Publications, £19.95) is one of the best of a new genre — the football coffee table book. Lavishly illustrated, it tells the story of every Cup Final since 1945.

Its companion, *The FA Cup, A Club-By-Club Record Since 1945* (Tony Williams, £19.95), compiled by James Wright, is a statisticians' delight — and for nostalgics, too, with Metal and Produce Recovery Depot (Oxford) FC's record from 1946 to 1948 following soon after Manchester United's entry.

Finally, a history of Everton, Liverpool and Tranmere Rovers, *Three Sides Of The Mersey*, by Rogan Taylor and Andrew Ward, with John Williams (Robson Books, £16.95) gathers in a fruitful harvest.

PETER BALL

Born loser who rose to become fearsome champion

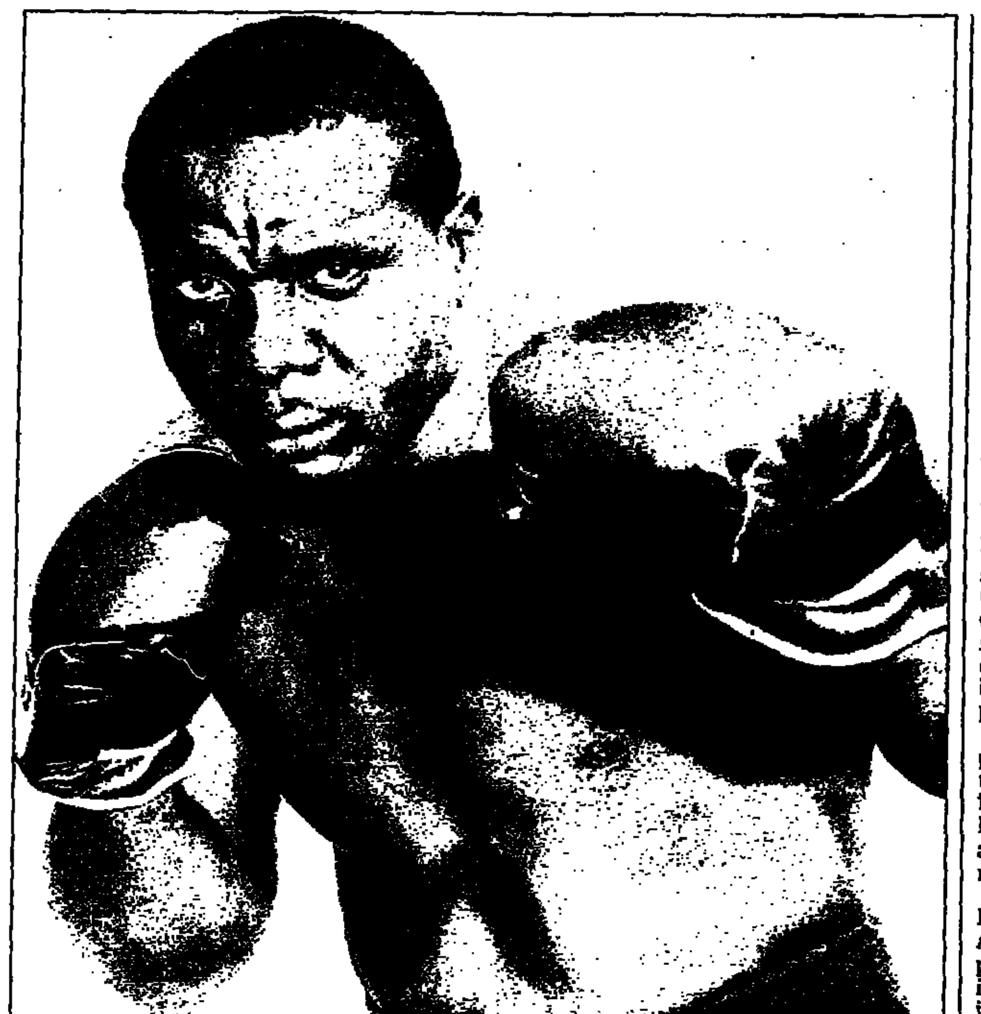
AT A time when the US Senate is inquiring into the management of boxing in the United States and the FBI is looking into the affairs of Don King, the American promoter, no book on boxing is perhaps more topical than the one on Sonny Liston, *Sonny Boy*, by Rob Steen (Methuen, £15.99).

In Liston's time (1950s and 1960s) the Mob was never far from the game and the FBI was never far from the Mob. Men with shady connections had a stake in Liston.

In the first complete biography of Liston, Steen delves into the world of one of the most feared champions, who is remembered not so much for his fighting prowess as for the near futility of his existence; as Harold Conrad said about Liston: "He died the day he was born."

The author, by his own admission, is anti-boxing. But if his intention was to use Liston's life to underline his case, it does not work. The story is too powerful and is told too well. In the end, boxing is not in the least adversely affected.

Even if controversy about the endings of the two bouts with Ali and Liston's death are not quite satisfactorily explained, the book is painstakingly researched and pulled together with style and energy. This in-depth account of the shaping and demise of a champion is engrossing and one of the best boxing books to come from a British writer for many years.



Liston, a terrifying heavyweight who met his match in Muhammad Ali

Particularly well handled is the chapter on Floyd Patterson and the making of the contest between him and Liston: the hope of the civilised world against the "killing machine".

As soon as you pick up a book on Muhammad Ali, images, memories and emotions pour into your mind. It is difficult to imagine a collection of photographs of Ali that could match the power of those in your head.

Howard Bingham's *Muhammad Ali, a 30-year journey* (Robson Books, £19.95) does far more than that. Bingham, the great man's closest friend, has released a cluster of photographs so powerful as to show society undergoing a change. There are three categories: with celebrities, with the public and personal. Whereas celebrity photographs in promotional magazines can hide more than they reveal to perpetuate myths, these make you see with new eyes.

SRIKUMAR SEN

How the English speakers coped touring France

"BLAME it all on James Moore" should be the rallying call of racing cyclists from the British Isles and Commonwealth when the bone-jarring *pavé* of Flanders or the strength-sapping climbs through the Alps in the Tour de France make them wonder why they do it.

Moore was the first British racer to "invade" the Continent in 1868 and win the world's first recorded race, a sprint of 2km, at Parc St Cloud, Paris. Before the turn of the century British cycle sport consisted mainly of track events because riders were hounded off the roads by public and police.

In *The Foreign Legion*, Rupert Guinness, a former Australian professional but now a full-time journalist based in Europe, charts an original and fascinating story of the men who followed Moore.

The author's compatriot, Sir Hubert Opperman (later to be Australia's minister of transport), finished twelfth overall in the 1928 Tour de France, inspiring other English-speakers to try their luck. Among them was Charles Holland, of Britain, who, together with Bill Burl, failed to finish the 1937 Tour.

It was Brian Robinson, 22 years later, who was to open Britain's Tour de France account: he was the country's first stage winner in 1958, and, a year later, won the stage from Annecy to Chalon-sur-Soane by 20 minutes after a lone ride of 140km.

Robinson had opened the door and was followed by the late Tom Simpson, Barry Hoban (12 Tours and eight stage victories); the master climber, Robert Millar (fourth overall in 1984); Paul Sherwen; Graham Jones and the time trial specialist, Sean Yates, who has delayed retirement to compete in next year's Tour.

All but Hoban served a tough apprenticeship with the Athletic Club de Boulogne-Villancourt (ACBV) before turning professional. And there was another: Stephen Roche, from Dublin, an ACBV new boy in 1980 who, in 1989, achieved cycling's zenith. He won the Tour de France and the Giro d'Italia and the world road-race championship.

Roche, who has put down firm roots with his family in France, hung up his wheels at the end of this season and retired from competition.

Ron Kitching's biography, *A Wheel in Two Worlds*, is a hefty volume that recalls both his amateur racing career (which earned him little) and his business as, first, a cycle dealer and later also a successful wholesaler who sold his Harrogate business for £1.5 million. Wonderful anecdotes laced with hard-headed business sense.

The Foreign Legion, Rupert Guinness, Springfield Books, £16.95; *A Wheel in Two Worlds*, Michael Breckon, MSS Handling, Unit 11, Bloomsgrove Industrial Estate, Ilkeston Road, Nottingham, NG7 3JG, £11.58.

PETER BRYAN

HOLIDAY FIXTURES

Sunday

FOOTBALL

FA Carling Premiership

Man Utd v Blackburn (4 0) (all ticket)
Sheffield Utd v Liverpool (12.0)
Wimbledon v Coventry (12 30)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	21	16	4	1	43	17	52
Leeds	22	11	7	4	37	25	40
Blackburn	20	11	5	4	28	17	38
Newcastle	21	10	6	5	38	20	36
Arsenal	21	9	7	5	20	13	34
Norwich	19	8	7	4	30	21	31
Liverpool	20	9	4	7	33	26	31
QPR	20	9	4	7	34	28	31
Aston Villa	21	8	7	6	24	23	31
Ipswich	21	7	8	6	20	24	29
West Ham	21	8	5	8	18	25	29
Wimbledon	20	7	7	6	23	26	28
Sheff Wed	21	6	9	6	37	29	27
Tottenham	21	6	9	6	29	24	27
Everton	21	7	4	10	20	26	25
Coventry	20	5	9	6	21	24	24
Man City	21	4	7	10	19	27	19
Oldham	21	4	7	10	16	32	19
Sheff Utd	21	3	8	10	18	33	17
Chelsea	19	3	6	10	12	22	15
Southampton	21	4	2	15	19	33	14
Swindon	21	2	8	11	19	43	14

Endsleigh Insurance League
First division

Stoke v Birmingham

Third division

Rochdale v Scarborough (2.0)

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Cobh Ramblers v Cork City (2.15).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Bitter Championship

Bradford v Halifax (3.0)
Featherstone v Castleford (11.30)
Hull KR v Hull (3.15)
Leeds v Wakefield (11.30)
Oldham v Salford (3.0)
Widnes v Warrington (3.0)
Wigan v St Helens (3.0)

Second division

Barrow v Carlisle (2.0)
Batley v Dewsbury (12.30)
Doncaster v Ryedale-York (3.0)
Hunslet v Bramley (3.30)
Keighley v Huddersfield (2.30)
Swinton v Rochdale (3.0)
Whitehaven v Workington (2.0)

RUGBY UNION

Club matches: Birkenhead Park v Waterloo (2.30), Hereford v Luctonians (2 30); Northampton v Stirling County (3.30)

Monday

3.0 kick-off unless stated

FOOTBALL

FA Carling Premiership

Aston Villa v Man City
Everton v Sheffield Wednesday (8 0)
Ipswich v West Ham United (all ticket)
QPR v Oldham
Southampton v Chelsea (12.0)
Swindon v Arsenal (12.0) (all ticket)
Tottenham v Norwich

Endsleigh Insurance League
First division

Barnsley v Derby
Bolton v Sunderland
Grimsby v Notts County
Leicester v Watford (11.30)
Millwall v Portsmouth (12.0)
Nottingham Forest v Middlesbrough
Oxford Utd v Crystal Palace
Peterborough v Luton
Southend v Charlton (12.0)
Tranmere v Wolverhampton
West Brom v Bristol City

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Crystal Palace	21	12	4	5	39	23	40
Tranmere	22	12	4	6	34	23	40
Millwall	22	11	6	5	32	28	39
Charlton	21	11	5	5	25	18	38
Leicester	21	10	6	5	32	19	36
Portsmouth	22	9	8	5	31	29	35
Southend	21	10	4	7	34	27	34
Stoke	21	10	3	8	32	34	33
Bristol City	22	9	6	7	27	25	33
Nottm Forest	20	9	5	6	31	25	32
Derby	20	9	3	8	31	33	30
W'hampton	21	6	10	5	34	25	28
Bolton	21	7	7	7	28	27	28
Middlesbrough	20	7	6	7	29	23	27
Notts County	21	8	2	11	27	37	26
West Brom	20	6	6	8	33	32	24
Birmingham	21	6	5	10	21	30	23
Sunderland	20	7	2	11	20	30	23
Grimsby	20	4	10	6	25	24	22
Barnsley	22	5	6	11	27	40	21
Luton	21	6	3	12	25	30	21
Watford	21	5	5	11	26	41	20
Oxford Utd	21	5	5	11	25	38	20
Peterborough	20	3	7	10	17	28	16

Second division

Bournemouth v Brentford (12.30)
Bradford v Rotherham
Brighton v Barnet
Bristol Rovers v Reading (all ticket)
Burnley v Wrexham
Fulham v Port Vale
Hartlepool v Huddersfield
Leyton Orient v Cambridge Utd
Stockport v Blackpool
York v Hull

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Reading	20	13	5	2	44	21	44
Stockport	20	12	4	4	36	18	40
Plymouth	20	11	4	5	40	28	37
Port Vale	20	10	5	5	38	24	35
Bristol Rovers	20	10	5	5	28	21	35
Blackpool	21	10	3	8	37	34	33
Burnley	20	10	3	7	33	25	33
Hull	20	9	4	7	37	34	31
Brentford	20	8	7	5	24	18	31
Bournemouth	19	8	6	5	23	19	30
Bradford	20	8	5	7	31	29	29
York	20	8	4	8	26	22	28
Wrexham	20	7	6	7	32	33	27
Cambridge Utd	20	7	6	7	28	29	27
Leyton Orient	20	7	6	7	25	29	27
Exeter	20	6	7	7	32	39	25
Cardiff	20	5	9	6	30	33	24
Swansea	21	6	5	10	24	32	23
Rotherham	20	5	6	9	26	34	21
Huddersfield	20	5	6	9	19	28	21
Fulham	20	5	3	12	21	29	18
Hartlepool	21	4	5	12	18	29	17
Brighton	20	3	7	10	17	33	16
Barnet	20	2	3	15	22	48	9

Third division

Chesterfield v Doncaster
Colchester v Mansfield (11.0)
Crewe v Wigan
Darlington v Carlisle
Gillingham v Northampton
Hereford v Shrewsbury (11.0)
Lincoln v Scunthorpe
Preston v Chester
Torquay v Wycombe
Walsall v Bury

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Crewe	19	12	4	3	42	27	40
Preston	19	11	3	5	46	33	36
Chester	19	11	2	6	35	21	35
Walsall	19	10	5	4	25	16	35
Wycombe	19	9	7	3	34	26	34
Shrewsbury	19	8	6	5	31	26	30
Scunthorpe	19	8	6	5	26	14	30
Rochdale	19	8	5	6	30	19	29
Bury	19	8	4	7	30	27	28
Torquay	19	6	9	4	32	29	27
Chesterfield	18	8	2	8	26	31	26
Doncaster	19	8	2	9	25	26	26
Mansfield	19	7	5	7	24	31	26
Lincoln	18	7	4	7	29	33	25
Colchester	18	7	2	9	35	44	23
Carlisle	19	5	7	7	25	22	22
Gillingham	19	5	6	8	24	28	21
Hereford	18	5	3	10	28	40	18
Scarborough	19	5	3	11	21	32	18
Wigan	19	4	4	11	26	39	16
Darlington	19	3	6	10	22	32	15
Northampton	19	2	5	12	18	36	11

GM Vauxhall Conference

Altrincham v Macclesfield
Bromsgrove v Kidderminster (11.30)
Dag and Red v Kettering
Halifax v Gateshead
Northwich v Witton
Runcorn v Stafford
Stalybridge v Southport
Telford v Merthyr
Welling v Dover
Woking v Slough
Yeovil v Bath

Scottish League
Premier division

Dundee Utd v Aberdeen
Hibernian v Partick
Kilmarnock v Dundee
Motherwell v Celtic
Raith v St Johnstone
Rangers v Hearts

First division

Brechin v Hamilton
Clyde v Morton
Clydebank v Ayr
Falkirk v Dunfermline
St Mirren v Airdrie
Stirling v Dumbarton

Second division

Arbroath v East Fife
Berwick v Queen of the South
Cowdenbeath v Forfar
Queen's Park v Alloa
Stenhousemuir v Meadowbank
Stranraer v East Stirling

Tennents Scottish Cup
First round replay

Huntley v Albion

Northern Premier League
Premier Division

Knowsley Utd v Fleetwood
Marine v Colwyn Bay
Morecambe v Barrow
Winsford v Leek

OTHER MATCHES: Bishop Auckland v Frickley; Bridlington Town v Whitley Bay; Buxton v Matlock; Chorley v Horwich; Droylsden v Hyde; Emley v Accrington Stanley; Gainsborough v Boston. First division: Alfreton Town v Eastwood Town; Curzon Ashton v Ashton Utd; Gt Harwood Town v Bamber Bridge; Gretna v Congleton Town; Goole Town v Worksop Town; Guiseley v Harrogate Town; Mossley v Caernarfon Town; Radcliffe Borough v Lancaster City; Warrington Town v Farsley Celtic; Workington v Spennymoor Utd.

DIADORA LEAGUE: Premier division: Basingstoke v Dorking; Chesham v Aylesbury (12.0); Dulwich v Bromley; Grays v Wivenhoe; Hendon v Hayes (11.15); Marlow v Wokingham (12.0); Molesey v Kingstonian; St Albans v Enfield; Stevenage Borough v Hitchin (11.0); Sutton Utd v Carshalton (11.0); Yeading v Harrow (11.30). First division: Abingdon Town v Chalfont St Peter; Billericay Town v Purfleet; Bognor Regis Town v Worthing; Boreham Wood v Berkhamsted Town; Heybridge Swifts v Bishops Stortford; Maidenhead Utd v Windsor and Eton; Uxbridge v Staines Town; Walton and Hersham v Tooting and Mitcham; Wembley v Ruislip Manor; Whyteleafe v Croydon. Second division: Aldershot Town v Thame Utd, Banstead Athletic v Lewes; Barton Rovers v Ware; Collier Row v Tilbury; Egham Town v Hampton; Hemel Hempstead v Edgware Town; Hungerford Town v Newbury Town; Leatherhead v Chertsey Town; Metropolitan Police v Malden Vale; Rainham Town v Aveley; Saffron Walden Town v Witham. Third division: Camberley Town v Cove, Cheshunt v Hertford Town; Clapton v East Thurrock Utd; Harlow Town v Royston Town; Horsham v Epsom and Ewell; Kingsbury Town v Feltham and Hounslow B; Leighton Town v Tring Town; Northwood v Flackwell Heath, Southall v Harefield Utd.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Atherstone v Nuneaton (10.30); Bashley v Farnborough; Cambridge City v Corby Town; Cheltenham v Trowbridge; Crawley Town v Hastings (11.15); Gresley Rovers v Burton (11.30); Hednesford v Halesowen; Moor Green v Solihull (12 0); Sittingbourne v Chelmsford (11.30); Waterlooville v Dorchester; Worcester v Gloucester.

Midland division: Bedworth Utd v Armitage, Bridgnorth Town v Bilston Town; Evesham Utd v RC Warwick; Hinckley Town v Leicester Utd; King's Lynn v Grantham Town; Newport AFC v Redditch Utd; Rushden and Diamonds v VS Rugby; Stourbridge v Dudley Town; Tamworth v Sutton Coldfield Town; Weston-super-Mare v Clevedon Town, Yate Town v Forest Green Rovers. Southern division: Ashford Town v Gravesend and Northfleet; Baldock Town v Braintree Town; Buckingham Town v Witney Town; Burnham v Fisher 93; Dunstable v Wealdstone; Erith and Belvedere v Tonbridge AFC; Havant Town v Salisbury City; Margate v Canterbury City; Newport, IOW v Fareham Town; Sudbury Town v Bury Town; Weymouth v Poole Town.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Ards v Bangor; Ballyclare v Omagh Town; Carrick v Larne; Cliftonville v Crusaders; Coleraine v Ballymena; Glentoran v Linfield; Newry v Distillery; Portadown v Glenavon.

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Derry City v St Patrick's Athletic (3.15); Dundalk v Galway Utd (3.30); Limerick v Bohemians (2.15); Shamrock Rovers v Drogheda Utd (2.15).

KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v Inter Cardiff; Bangor v Porthmadog; Briton Ferry v Llanelli; Caersws v Newtown; Ebbw Vale v Afan Lido; Flint Town Utd v Connah's Quay (11 0); Haverfordwest v Maesteg Park; Llansantffraid v Conwy; Mold v Holywell; Ton Pentre v Cwmbran (1.0).

CARLING NORTH WEST COUNTIES: First division: Bootle v Prescot; Burscough v Skelmersdale Utd; Clitheroe v Atherton LR; Flixton v Salford City; Glossop North End v Chadderton; Maine Road v Darwen; Nantwich Town v Kidsgrove Athletic; Newcastle Town v Eastwood Hanley; Penrith v Bradford Park Avenue; Rossendale Utd v Bacup Borough; St Helens Town v Blackpool Rovers. Second division: Ellesmere Port Town v Nelson; Holker Old Boys v K Chell, Ashton Town v Westhoughton Town; Atherton Collieries v Haslingden; Castleton Gabriels v Oldham Town; Cheadle Town v Irlam Town; North Trafford v Formby; Squires Gate v Blackpool Mecs; Stantondale v Maghull

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier Division: Bideford v Crediton Utd; Bristol Manor Farm v Mangotsfield Utd; Chippenham Town v Calne Town; Elmore v Tiverton Town; Paulton Rovers v Frome Town; Saltash Utd v Liskeard Athletic; Taunton Town v Exmouth Town. First division: Backwell Utd v Bishop Sutton; Bridport v Chard Town; Brislington v Keynsham Town; Clyst Rovers v Ottery St Mary; Heavitree Utd v Dawlish Town; Ilfracombe Town v Barnstaple, Larkhall Athletic v Warminster Town; Pewsey Vale v Devizes Town; Radstock v Welton Rovers; Wellington v Glastonbury.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Belper Town v Ossett Town; Brigg Town v Denaby Utd, Glasshoughton Welfare v Eccleshill Utd; Lincoln Utd v Winterton Rangers, Liversedge v Sheffield; Maltby MW v North Ferriby Utd; Ossett Albion v Hucknall Town, Pickering Town v Armthorpe Welfare; Stocksbridge PS v Ashfield Utd; Thackley v Pontefract Colliery.

JEWSON LEAGUE: Premier division: Cornard Utd v Sudbury Wanderers; Diss Town v Lowestoft Town, Fakenham Town v Watton Utd; Great Yarmouth Town v Gorleston; Haverhill Rovers v Halstead Town; Histon v Chatteris Town; March Town Utd v Wisbech Town; Newmarket Town v Soham Town Rangers, Stowmarket Town v Felixstowe Town; Tiptree Utd v Harwich and Parkeston, Wroxham v Norwich Utd.

RUGBY UNION

Club matches

Abertillery v Ebbw Vale (2.30)
Aspatria v Wigton (2.30)
Ayr v Clarkston (2.0)
Bath v Clifton
Bedford v Old Paulines
Birmingham/Solihull v Sithilians (2.30)
Bradford and Bingley v Morley
Camborne v Redruth (2.30)
Cardiff v Pontypridd (2 30)
Cheltenham v Stroud (2.30)
Coventry v Moseley
Currie v Boroughmuir (2.0)
Durham City v Stockton (2.15)
Gala v Melrose (2.0)
Glamorgan Wndrs v Newbridge (2.30)
Glasgow Ac v Glasgow High/Kel (2.0)
Gloucester v Lydney (2 15)
Harrogate v Kendal (2.15)
Havant v Bournemouth (2.30)
Henol's FP v Watsonians (2.0)
Jed-Forest v Hawick (2.0)
Laugharne v Tenby Utd (2.30)
Lichfield v Tamworth (2.30)
Llanelli v London Welsh (2.30)
London Irish v Old Millhillians
Maesteg v Bridgend (2.30)
Musselburgh v Preston Lodge (2.0)
Narberth v Whitland (2.30)
Neath v Aberavon (2.30)
Newport v Bristol (2.30)
Northern v Newcastle Gosforth (2.15)
Nuneaton v Rugby (2.15)
Orrell v Liverpool St Helens (2.30)
Otley v Leeds (2.30)
Pontypool v Tredegar (2.30)
Preston Grasshoppers v Fylde (2.30)
Rhiwbina v Mountain Ash (2.30)
Richmond v Harlequins (2.30)
Sale v Broughton Park (2.30)
Selkirk v Kelso (2.00)
W Hartlepool v Hartlepool R (2.0)
Wigtownshire v Kilmarnock (2.0)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Bitter Championship

Leigh v Sheffield

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Kitzbühel	25	50	good	varied	fair	cloud	-3	22/12
	(Good skiing but pistes hard-packed in places)							
Mayrhofen	0	27	icy	heavy	closed	cloud	-1	18/12
	(Pistes hard-packed, no crowds or queues)							
Obergurgl	45	70	fair	crust	fair	fine	-2	21/12
	(Good piste skiing in all areas)							
Schladming	5	80	good	powder	closed	cloud	1	22/12
	(Excellent skiing on upper slopes)							
St Anton	40	195	fair	varied	fair	snow	-1	23/12
	(Piste skiing improving)							
FRANCE								
Alpe D'Huez	75	150	good	powder	good	snow	-4	23/12
	(Excellent powder skiing everywhere)							
Avoriaz	90	120	good	powder	good	snow	-6	23/12
	(Great powder skiing, particularly below tree line)							
Chamonix	60	160	good	heavy	good	cloud	2	22/12
	(Very good piste skiing but some icy patches)							
Flaine	45	120	good	varied	good	snow	-2	23/12
	(Light powder on all open pistes giving good skiing)							
La Plagne	95	200	good	powder	good	snow	-3	22/12
	(Pistes virtually perfect with powder snow everywhere)							
Megeve	70	110	good	powder	fair	cloud	1	23/12
	(Overnight snow has improved conditions enormously)							
Hevalier	45	105	good	powder	good	cloud	0	23/12
	(Beautiful powder skiing in most areas)							
Tignes	105	270	good	powder	good	snow	-9	23/12
	(Plentiful powder snow everywhere)							
Val Thorens	80	280	good	powder	good	snow	-8	23/12
	(Abundance of powder on and off piste)							
ITALY								
Cervinia	30	300	good	crust	good	fine	-5	17/12
	(Superb skiing on all pistes)							
SWITZERLAND								
Cr Montana	30	100	good	powder	good	cloud	-3	23/12
	(Superb skiing on empty slopes, fantastic powder skiing)							
Mürren	15	50	fair	varied	icy	cloud	-1	22/12
	(Some new snow overnight giving quite good skiing)							
Verbier	15	150	good	powder	good	cloud	0	22/12
	(Great powder skiing again today)							
Zermatt	10	140	icy	crust	icy	fair	-3	17/12
	(All lower runs icy and high winds limiting lifts)							

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes, U - upper; art - artificial.

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RC 7 £9,500 ono. Tel: 0438 745824 9 am to 5 pm.
WLY 20 on retention cert circ £3,500 0584 891103

2 APJ Offers over £4,000, private sale Tel 0483 67799 ask for Valerie 9-5pm

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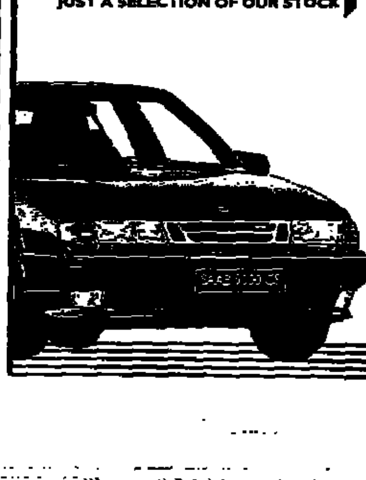
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Freud on Friday: tasty morsels from a sporting year

In pursuit of trivia and The Truth



It was to be the column that reached parts other columns failed to penetrate, but ended up being the column that brought trivia ignored by its competitors.

It began by investigating how Newcastle United supporters painted their faces green and yellow, sang *Que sera sera*; took Steve (Interesting) Davis out for a pizza and deeply embarrassed the Essex man by sending back the warm lager; patronised Wembley for the world badminton championships, which sent it to sleep; and cheered the march of the Suffolk Punches at the Horse of the Year Show, which made it feel a whole lot better. The lunacy of contemplating a national stadium when we have this huge under-used arena in north London is something the column will leave to more serious commentators.

There were some notable scoops, events which were reported nowhere else in the media: coverage of the public schools rugby fives was among these — indeed, the column itself thought it might be a labour-saving variation of rugby sevens until it recalled what occurred behind the fives courts when the column was at school.

While the sportswriters of the land were giving hour-by-hour accounts of Frank Bruno's preparation for his fight against Carl "The Truth" Williams, this column had a four-course lunch with Williams's manager, drove to the gymnasium with Williams's trainer and exchanged a few sentences with the boxer himself.

"Why are you known as 'The Truth'?"

"There are many versions ..."

It was given a delicate buffet meal at the polo club where Fergie's father once reigned; while at Bisley, for the National Rifle Association Elcho Shield competition, the column made Cumberland Sauce (redcurrant jelly, English mustard, Ruby port) to accompany its host's boiled ham.

Then there was the bullfighting in Portugal ... advertised as an event where the bulls are not killed; the column could not help noticing that the bulls were left to bleed to death and will seek other diversions in the land of our oldest allies.

On a summer Sunday, covering the British gliding championships, the column was taken for a glide in the clear skies above Basingstoke ... and returned to the town in December to witness the British figure skating competition at the leisure centre — home of the Basingstoke Beavers, a cinema and a bowling alley.

It supported the Scottish women's lacrosse team at Heriot-Watt University and bought a T-shirt for the cause, chatted to the puck-bunnies at Nottingham's ice-rink and found out about hulks and the attraction of controlled aggression on the ice — which it had thought was plain undiluted violence.

Some hours were spent in a back garden in Ayrshire with a pigeon fancier ... whose birds had been unleashed at Blackpool and failed to return: home seemed to be where the heart is.

It bowled at Tolworth with the women's ten-pin champion, who went on to win every event on offer; was unimpressed with indoor cricket at Aston Villa: rather liked a man named Tracey who is 6ft 8in and excels at basketball in Guildford: and in Stoke Newington it found an assemblage of fiendish Turks who drink tea at 25p a throw and dream of the day that Galatasaray of Istanbul rule the football world. At the time of the visit they were well pleased with their club's performance, which saw Manchester United out of the European Cup.

When Cambridge University warmed up for the Twickenham contest with their annual game against Steele-Bodger's XV at Grange Road, the column got there early and saw Oxford Under-13s take on the youth of Cambridge and show that the future of the game is in excellent hands.

Perhaps this column's finest hour in 1993 was when it — and no one else — gave prominence to the world tiddlywinks championship, explained the intricacies of the game, cooked fresh salmon for the holder who retained his title two days later. As a consequence of the publicity, this hitherto minority event was witnessed by the first recorded double-figure crowd.

The column went to Cowes and got wet, tried to get into Wimbledon and got fleeced, had a really good bacon butty at the Windsor horse show and, while the starter of the Grand National achieved worldwide prominence for a single cock-up, the column followed the father and son golf tournament at West Hill and wrote about the event enthusiastically.

But it was not all sitting back and telling it how it was. On the front at Southend, on the way to an Anglo-Italian Cup tie, the column put its money into a Crack-a-Crab machine and wielded the padded mallet with astonishing effect, achieving a greatly superior result to that achieved by United against Pescara two hours later.

Where this column is united with the mainstream of sports journalism is in wishing its readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Tout's crew take World Cup lead

MARK Tout, the British bobsleigh champion, leads the World Cup four-man event after finishing fourth in Calgary yesterday (Chris Moore writes). It is the first time in 30 years that a British crew has held overall pole position and provides the Zanussi-sponsored Olympic team with a boost for the Winter Games in Lillehammer in February.

Tout, and his crew of Chris Symonds, Jason Wing and Eric Sekwalor, won silver and bronze medals in last month's World Cup races in Altenberg. Sean Olsson, driving the Great Britain II sled, finished 0.33 seconds behind Tout in seventh place yesterday with his crew of Vernon Bramble, George Farrell and Lenny Paul.

Scottish challenge

SQUASH: The return of the national championships to full British status at the Herts Country Club, Welwyn Garden City, next month, after last season's controversial attempt to make them exclusively English in character, raises the prospect of a first Scottish winner in the men's event. Peter Nicol, 20, the Scottish champion who took the Singapore Open title in August, has been seeded third behind Peter Marshall, the Nottingham-based England No 1, who is keen to reclaim the title he won in 1992. There are five other previous winners in the field.

Favourite finds form

YACHTING: Brindabella, a 75ft maxi that is favourite for the Sydney to Hobart race, won all six of the Southern Cross Cup races off Sydney this week. George Snow, who owns the boat, which was launched three months ago, said it had performed better than expected. "This is a new boat and it's virtually a world first," Snow said. "Our process in the last six weeks has been to look closely at the performance and how it relates to the design. The boat is sailing better than the design numbers." A fleet of 106 yachts will take part in the 630-mile Sydney to Hobart race, which starts on Sunday.

Sturt stands down

CRICKET: Mike Sturt has resigned as chairman of Middlesex, the county champions, the club announced last night. Joe Hardstaff, the Middlesex secretary, said that Sturt had stood down "on a matter of principle". Hardstaff's announcement did not give further details about Sturt's decision but said that he had given "distinguished service" to the club for 22 years as a player and administrator. "The club owes him an enormous debt of gratitude and wishes him well in the future," Hardstaff said. Mike Murray has taken over as acting chairman.

Non-title bonanza

BOXING: The planned Lennox Lewis-Evander Holyfield match should go ahead as a non-title bout if necessary, Lewis's manager, Frank Maloney, said yesterday after the World Boxing Association (WBA) followed the International Boxing Federation (IBF) in refusing to sanction the unification contest planned for April in Las Vegas. Lewis holds the WBC version, and Maloney claimed that, even without titles being at stake, the bout would make the winner the world's "richest ever sportsman", and claimed the American promoter, Dan Duva, was in favour of the idea.

Success for Sevenoaks

SCHOOLS SPORT: After three barren years, Sevenoaks recaptured the 125 Challenge Trophy for rugby union with a comprehensive 30-5 win over Barnard Castle (Christopher Dighton writes). The annual challenge match produced six tries, five of them for Sevenoaks. The match had to be switched from Barnard Castle's ground because of a frozen pitch. The one chosen was only just playable — the traditions of the tournament and the distance Sevenoaks had travelled having a considerable influence on the decision to go ahead with the game.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Atlanta 108 Boston 103; Miami 96 Philadelphia 90; Chicago 106 Minnesota 98; Milwaukee 96 Dallas 86; LA Clippers 109 Washington 82.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	16	6	.727	-
Orlando	13	10	.565	3½
Miami	10	11	.476	5½
Boston	11	13	.458	6
New Jersey	9	14	.391	7½
Philadelphia	9	15	.375	8
Washington	7	17	.292	10

Central division

Atlanta	17	5	.773	-
Chicago	15	8	.652	2½
Charlotte	13	11	.542	5
Indiana	10	13	.435	7½
Cleveland	9	14	.391	8½
Detroit	8	15	.348	9½
Milwaukee	7	18	.280	11½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest division

Houston	22	1	.957	-
Utah	17	8	.680	6
San Antonio	15	10	.600	8
Denver	10	13	.435	12
Minnesota	9	16	.360	14½
Dallas	1	23	.042	21½

Pacific division

Seattle	20	2	.909	-
Phoenix	17	5	.773	3
Portland	15	10	.600	6½
Golden State	12	11	.522	8½
LA Clippers	10	13	.435	10½
LA Lakers	9	16	.360	12½
Sacramento	5	17	.227	15

BOBSLEIGHING

CALGARY, Alberta: World Cup: Four-man. 1, P Lueders (Can) 1min 52.22sec; 2, C Lori (Can) 1 52.38; 3, P Gerardo (It) 1 52.65; 4, M Tout, C Symonds, J Wing, E Sekwalor (GB) 1 52.69; 5, G Huber (It) 1 52.76; 6, D Mammeau (Can) 1 52.89; 7, S Olsson, V Bramble, G Farrell, L Paul (GB) 1.53.02; 8, J Herbench (US) 9, J Demura (Cz Rep) 1.53.07; 10, F Gustafson (Swe) 1 53 10. **Standings**, 1, Tout 111pts; 2, D Wieco (Ger) 106; 3, Lueders 104, equal 4, Lori and H Schroesser (Austria) 102.

BOXING

TOKYO: WBC Bantamweight Championship: Yasuei Yakushiji (Japan) bt Byun Jung Il (S Kor, holder) pts.

CRICKET

BRISBANE: Tour match: South Africans 335-7 dec (H Cronje 145, D Cullinan 113, M Rindgwaweni 5-92) and 224-8 dec (A Hudson 105); Queensland 153 (S Law 56, F de Villiers 3-34, D Rundle 3-51) and 268-5 (T Barsby 99, J Maher 50 not out). Match drawn.

MORATUWA: Tour match (first day of two): England Under-19 309-8 (C Schofield 59 not out, R Weston 57); Southern Province 23-1.

FOOTBALL

Wednesday's late results

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Newcastle United 1 Leeds United 1.

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE: Second division: Cardiff 1 Swansea 0.

ANGLO-ITALIAN CUP: International stage: Group A: Ancona 3 Notts County 1; Ascoli 1 Bolton 1; Charlton 0, Pisa 2; Middlesbrough 0 Brescia 1. Group B: Cesena 2, West Bromwich Albion 1; Pescara 2, Stoke City 1; Portsmouth 2 Fiorentina 3; Southend United 5 Padova 2.

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Shelbourne 3 Monaghan United 0.

INTERNATIONAL: Monaco 0 Germany 0. Other matches postponed.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Florida 3 NY Rangers 2, Hartford 6 New Jersey 3, NY Islanders 5 Montreal 3; Toronto 2 San Jose 2; Edmonton 7 Calgary 3; Dallas 3 Anaheim 2 (OT).

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
NY Rangers	23	8	3	49	126	87
New Jersey	19	11	4	42	120	93
Philadelphia	18	16	2	38	135	136
Washington	15	16	2	32	108	106
NY Islanders	14	15	3	31	120	111
Florida	13	15	5	31	91	97
Tampa Bay	10	20	4	24	85	171

Northeast division

Pittsburgh	17	9	7	41	125	113
Boston	16	10	7	39	110	98
Buffalo	16	15	3	35	115	99
Montreal	14	13	6	34	105	94
Quebec	14	15	5	33	122	117
Hartford	11	19	3	25	97	118
Ottawa	8	24	3	19	104	171

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central division

Toronto	21	9	6	48	127	98
Dallas	17	12	7	41	127	116
St Louis	17	11	5	39	105	106
Detroit	18	13	2	38	144	119
Chicago	16	11	4	36	97	85
Winnipeg	12	19	6	29	122	147

Pacific division

Calgary	19	12	5	43	137	119
Vancouver	18	17	0	36	115	114
Anaheim	13	20	2	28	92	110
San Jose	11	19	6	28	87	111
Los Angeles	12	19	2	26	123	137
Edmonton	9	23	5	23	106	133

RIFLE SHOOTING

SUSSEX CUP (teams of six 3x20 at 50m): 1, Surrey 3320 (equals national record); 2, Lancashire 3302; 3, Lothian 3294.

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: Sheffield 28 Salford 22; Wakefield 12, Warrington 10.

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCHES: Aberavon 37 Maesteg 21; Bath 9 Toulouse 23; Moseley 40 Greater Birmingham 12; Newport 36 Gloucester 14.

TENNIS

MIAMI, Florida: Orange Bowl junior championships: Singles: Boys: Third round: M Rios (Chile) bt A Decker (Fri) 6-1 6-2; M Carlsson (Sp) bt P Goldstein (US) 6-4, 3-6, 7-6; N Behr (Isr) bt J Jorge Ezguerda (Mex) 6-0, 6-1; F Browne (Arg) bt W Eccles (US) 6-1 6-2; A Costa (Sp) bt E Bortrolli (Arg) 6-3, 6-0; J Appel (US) bt C Tou (Peru) 6-3, 7-6 (7-5); S Prieto (Arg) bt W Schranz (Austria) 7-6, 3-6 6-0; C N'Goran (Ivory Coast) bt D Benhamou (Fr) 6-4, 6-1; J Szymanski (Nor) bt H Kvil-Fraigerd (Nor) 6-1, 6-0; T Zib (Cz) bt F Squillari (Arg) 6-2, 7-5; R Dosler (Austria) bt A Roberman (US) 6-4, 6-3; R Carretero (Sp) bt M Wiegman (Ger) 6-1, 6-4; T Johansson (Swe) bt G Bianca (Sp) 7-6, 4-6, 4-0, ret; G Kuhn (Br) bt A Schmeder (Arg) 6-3, 6-2; M Zimonjic (Yugo) bt J Roddick (US) 7-5, 6-4; G Diaz (Arg) bt R Sabau (Rom) 6-2, 6-2. Girls: Second round: M D'Agostini (Br) bt E Pouchkareva (GB) 6-2, 6-3; C Bergbeder (Fr) bt A Wainwright (GB) 6-4, 6-2; N London (US) bt M Dolores Campana (Ec) 6-0, 6-3; N Loukamanohandy (Geo) bt K Brandi (US) 6-2, 6-4; M Schwerzmann (Swit) bt K Bulat (Pol) 6-3, 6-1; S Sanchezhang (US) bt C Giraldo (Col) 6-0, 6-4; A Montolio (Sp) bt D Randhawhy (Middlesex) 6-7, 6-3, 6-4; A Bescherzki (US) bt S Tebbals (Can) 6-4, 6-3; M Nadelkova (Slovakia) bt A Serrazanetti (It) 7-6, 4-6, 7-5; M Diaz Oliva (Arg) bt C Hincapie (Col) 6-4, 6-7, 6-0; K Maloc (Pol) bt C Lopez (Arg) 6-3, 6-4; A Pastor (Fr) bt K Nagy (Hun) 6-4, 6-4; S Jayaceelan (Can) bt B Castro (Chi) 6-0, 6-1; M Landa (Arg) bt S Nicklas (US) 6-3, 6-3; T Panova (Russ) bt A Lonkova (Russ) 6-2, 6-1; C Cristea (Rom) bt M Hrachova (Slovakia) 6-2, 6-0.

Forlorn pack pursues United

BY KEITH PIKE

TWELVE points clear of the field going into the congested holiday programme, Manchester United can end any lingering doubts over their ability to win a second successive championship if they can maintain their form.

Beginning with a home match against Blackburn Rovers on Sunday, and following up with games against Oldham Athletic, Leeds United and Liverpool in the next 11 days, United will surely have put themselves out of reach if they can emerge with their lead intact.

Most of the chasing pack have already conceded that United are unlikely to be caught, and there are those who believe the Premiership title could remain at Old Trafford until the end of the century. Yesterday, though, Norwich City signalled their intent to mount a lasting challenge.

For years forced to sell their best players to the likes of United, Norwich yesterday secured the services of Chris Sutton, one of the best young strikers in the country, for the next 3½ years.

Sutton, 20, who is thought to have attracted a £3 million bid from Blackburn Rovers earlier in the season and who caught the eye of Internazionale during Norwich's brave Uefa Cup run. By his decision, Suttonmay also have persuaded Mike Walker that his future as manager lies at Carrow Road.

Walker has been linked with vacancies at Everton and Atlético Madrid, and had called on his club to make more money available to keep his side together. "It goes some way towards answering a couple of questions I had as regards where we might be going, and I am pleased with that," Walker said yesterday. "It all bodes for continued success at the club."



Sutton: staying put

Norwich are also planning to offer improved terms to five other players whose contracts expire at the end of the season — Ian Culverhouse, Ian Crook, Rob Newman, Gary Megson and Daryl Sutch.

Sutton, who has represented England at under-21 level, said: "It makes good sense to stay with a team who are doing so well." The Norwich chairman, Robert Chase, said: "Chris is one of the highly-rated strikers in European football, and his signature reflects his determination and our determination to keep that winning team together."

Cardiff City are likely to face heavy punishment, including the possible closure of their ground, after serious crowd disturbances during their second division match against Swansea City at Ninian Park on Tuesday night.

Mounted police and dog-handlers were needed to restore order after Garry Thompson's goal for Cardiff early in the second half prompted missiles to be hurled from the stands and fighting between rival supporters on the pitch.

Cardiff already have a £25,000 suspended fine hanging over them after crowd trouble during their matches against Fulham and Port Vale earlier this season. "We will have to examine all the evidence and see exactly what the circumstances were before we can decide what action, if any, to take," Alun Evans, chief executive of the Football Association of Wales, said.

David White, who completed his transfer from Manchester City to Leeds United yesterday, has signed a four-and-a-half year contract. David Rocastle moved in the opposite direction in a swap deal valued at £1.5 million.

Gresley lose feeling of inferiority

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL BY WALTER GAMMIE

GRESLEY Rovers will run out for an emotional match against Burton Albion at their Moat Ground on Monday that will lay to rest their last doubts that they have slipped the shadow of their neighbours. The Beazer Homes League premier division game will be the first league meeting of two clubs that lie five miles apart, separated by the River Trent.

While Burton climbed out of the West Midlands League in 1958 to enjoy prosperity in the Southern League and the Northern Premier League, Gresley made the step to the Beazer Homes League only last season and climbed straight into the premier division when they finished runners-up in the midland division.

The clubs met over two legs in the league cup last year but the match on Monday represents the true levelling of status. Rodney Summers, the Gresley secretary, said: "We get on very well with them — until match days."

Nuneaton Borough, Conference runners-up in 1983-4 and 1984-5, were the team that went up with Gresley last season and are rapidly re-establishing themselves as a force. The prospect of their supporters descending upon Atherstone United, four miles away, led to North Warwickshire police demanding a 9am kick-off for their game on Monday.

Keith Allen, the Atherstone secretary, said: "Last Saturday, we had a home attendance against Waterlooville of 201; on Boxing day, we expect more than 2,000. It does not present us with a problem, we've had big games in the past.

"It is however the first time we've played Nuneaton at Atherstone since 1988. Nuncaton attracted a small amount of unwelcome publicity in their FA Cup run, particularly at Bournemouth, and the police thought there might be trouble."

The match will, in fact, kick off at 10.30. "I offered to kick off at 5am when there wouldn't be any supporters at all to trouble them," Allen said. "In the end, our negotiations were amicable and perfectly sensible."

Atherstone know the size of their task. "Nuneaton are giants of non-League football in the Midlands," Allen said. "We are the minnows. They've got more money than us, more support and a better ground, but we're still above them in the league. We've got no social club, no income from alcohol and gambling; gates are poor and our wage bill has got to be among the two lowest in the premier division. Every season in the division is a bonus."

THE TIMES

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Teamwork missing ingredient for Wales



Gerald Davies reflects on the individual talent in the squad and the inability to exploit it

OF THE international matches played this side of Christmas, it was Wales who came off worst. Admittedly, Scotland were on the receiving end of a downpour of points but it was, after all, against the All Blacks who, when the mood is upon them and the opposition recumbent, have a time-honoured reputation for inflicting maximum damage.

More than any other team, New Zealand retain the enviable capacity to convert their superiority into points. Wales, on the other hand, lost to Canada who, with the greatest respect, are not in the same class. However, the match said less about Canada than it did about Wales.

In no match was the fear of the former British Isles and Scotland coach, Ian McGeechan, that teams in Britain and Ireland are losing the ability to "think on their feet more" more clearly demonstrated. Players seem to perform on automatic pilot, following a pre-destined course mapped out in the dressing-room.

That this should be said of Wales, of all teams, is a cause for grieving. Weakness in skill and physique had been apparent in the past. But the strength they always had was an inherited wit, a native cunning and rugby intelligence to frustrate, bamboozle and surprise the opposition. The craft was in the blood.

Wales played into Canada's hands by driving close to the scrums where the defence was thickest or ran at a Canadian defence which was flat and off side more often than not. To moan later about the referee's failure to police the off side was useless. Anyone with a smattering of experience of what was once the West Wales League of junior clubs — and there was no tougher school — would have supplied an answer with alacrity and without the benefit of a squad session in the Algarve.

From Cydweli to Clydach, Cwmllynfell to Ystradgynlais, when matters took a turn in this way the disembodied voice of the hooker or a prop, unhappy with proceedings, would be heard bellowing from the depths of the murky scrum: "Get us *down there*". It was not a command anyone dared ignore. There was no need for flip charts. Like the All Blacks, they knew the virtues of turning the opposition with a kick.

What is curious now is the feeling that had Canada faced any one of the top five clubs in Wales instead of the national team, the visitors might have been put in their place. This is a conundrum which the national management, Bob Norster and Alan Davies, need to solve.

Optimistic though it may sound, Wales, as the squad announced on Wednesday reflects, should be able to match the four home countries for talent. Apart, that is, from the lineout; Wales's Achilles' heel. Teamwork may be another matter.

Tony Clement need not feel it necessary to doff his cap to Gavin Hastings. No better wingers will grace the championship than Ieuan Evans and Nigel Walker, while Hill, Proctor and Manley are sound stand-bys. Scott Gibbs will be much missed, of course. But if Wales are unable to match Carling and Guscott, their centres are equal to what Scotland and Ireland have to offer.

The contest for scrum half will probably be between Moon and Jones, but there are any number of other scrum halves who, given different circumstances, could prove their international standing. As well as Howley, the others include Chris Bridges and Rhodri Jones, of Neath, and Paul John, of Pontypridd.

It is clear that Adrian Davies and Neil Jenkins cannot be included in the same team. Both stand-off halves, Jenkins, for international purposes, is accommodated at centre, but since he continues to play at stand-off for Pontypridd, his positional instincts, awareness and responses remain those of his club position. He is full of confidence at the moment as the leading scorer in Welsh rugby, while Davies seems to be out of sorts.

Other countries might envy the hookers in the squad and there are one or two more good ones in Wales. Barrie Williams, of Neath, is included for the first time and, at 20, is a wonderful prospect. A good back-row unit could be made from any combination of players in the squad. But experience in the pack, of the kind Phil Davies can offer, must be the key. In the second row it is Gareth Llewellyn's year to prove himself. He is now an experienced player and needs to exert himself.

The ultimate problem for Wales, however, is how to draw the best from this pool of good players in the way Ireland and Scotland always manage to do with fewer to choose from.

WALES SQUAD

BACKS: A Clement (Swansea), M Rayer (Cardiff), I Evans (Llanelli), S Hill (Cardiff), D Manley (Pontypridd), N Walker (Cardiff), W Proctor (Llanelli), M Hall (Cardiff), N Davies (Llanelli), H Woodland (Neath), S Lewis (Pontypridd), A Palfrey (Cardiff), M Wintle (Llanelli), N Jenkins (Pontypridd), A Davies (Cardiff), A Williams (Swansea), R Moon (Llanelli), R Jones (Swansea), R Howley (Cardiff)

FORWARDS: R Evans (Llanelli), M Griffiths (Cardiff), I Buckett (Swansea), H Williams-Jones (Llanelli), J Davies (Neath), R Shaw (Swansea), G Jenkins (Swansea), B Williams (Neath), A Lamerton (Llanelli), P Davies (Llanelli), Gareth Llewellyn (Neath), A Copsey (Llanelli), P Arnold (Swansea), Glyn Llewellyn (Neath), D Jones (Cardiff), H Taylor (Cardiff), A Gibbs (Newbridge), H Stone (Cardiff), E Lewis (Llanelli), L Jones (Llanelli), M Perego (Llanelli), S Quinnell (Llanelli), S Williams (Neath), P Thomas (Pontypridd).

WITHDRAWN INJURED: R Blidgood (Newport), N Boobyer (Llanelli), S Gibbs (Swansea), S Davies (Swansea).

CHRIS SMITH



Evans, the Wales captain, whose team must regroup after defeat by Canada

Changes leave game on wrong side of law



DAVID HANDS
Rugby Commentary

It being the season of goodwill and present-giving, perhaps it is time for a plea to Father Christmas at the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB): may we have our game back? You know, the one that gave us controlled, more thoughtful rugby that rewarded positive skills, that gave us tries instead of a succession of penalties.

It was a less than perfect game and, in the wrong hands, it could be tedious. But it always seemed that players and referees had a slightly better than even chance of getting it right under the laws as they were prior to mid-1992 than they do now, in this wasteland of bruising, battering hulks which will bring over-stressed bodies crashing to a halt years before their time.

I never understood what was so wrong with the game before 1992 that the lawmakers felt they had to make such a fundamental change as the ruck-maul law has turned out to be. Those on the board might say they foresaw what the game could become, an all-action, exciting, fast-moving spectacle, a value-for-money product to stand its corner in the sporting marketplace of the Nineties.

Perhaps a sideways look might have been taken at rugby union's two brothers, rugby league and American Football, before the law was changed. People in the southern hemisphere complained about the constant stoppages in rugby union, but that is the nature of a physical-contact sport where the idea is actually to knock someone over as hard as you can. With all that tackling, time must be made available for reorganisation and that is what league and American Football do.

They are made up of constant stoppages. That rugby league has stripped away all the traditional elements of rugby union to pare the stoppage time down to a minimum does not, to my mind, make it any more attractive if what you get is mere repetition of what went before. It is now much the same in union.

Cast your mind back only a little way, to 1990 when France were touring Australia. They played an international at Ballymore and Australia won 49-31, with ten tries scored under the eye of a sympathetic (some might say over-sympathetic) referee, Clive Norling. The Australians loved it. Why would they have wished to change the laws of a game that had the potential to give them a point a minute, even in the rarefied atmosphere of international?

The 1987 World Cup semi-final between France and Australia was not a bad game, nor was the grand slam decider of 1991 between England and France. The game as it was structured had the potential for greatness, without the deconstruction which took place round the council tables of the IRFB. "I would hope the changes produce a more attractive spectacle, give greater stimulus to pass the ball and run with it, rather than kick it," Roger Vanderfield, then the board chairman, said at the time.

And after 18 months, what have we got? A game in which the ball is kicked far more than before. It can be the spectacle for which Vanderfield craved, as Otago showed against the British Isles last May. But it could be a spectacle before. Players and coaches cannot and should not play to order; if they do, rugby loses its essential ingredient of variety, both in how the game is played and in the physical dimensions of who plays it.

It is no coincidence that, under the old order or the new, two teams stand out: in international terms, Australia, and in English terms, Bath. It is interesting to observe that both have done so without going overboard on size. Australia have an open-side flanker of modest height in David Wilson, Bath have Andy Robinson and the less-than-giraffe-like Nigel Redman at lock.

Both teams have the talents and the decision-makers, and players such as Redman have the technique, to overcome whatever obstacles the lawmakers put in their way. But why should the game have been made more difficult to play and to referee? Why should the desperate defender have been given the helping hand rather than the positive attacker?

We are stuck with the law as it is until the 1995 World Cup but that does not mean to say the time in between cannot be used profitably. If the IRFB genuinely believed that the contribution of the *ad hoc* meeting of leading coaches in Hong Kong last spring was of value to them, they should commission those same coaches to sit down with players and referees so that when the laws are next reviewed, it is those at the sharp end who do it, not those who seek some rugby Utopia.

Shelford in return for Northampton

WAYNE Shelford, who was instrumental in Northampton's rise to first-division prominence, will make a guest appearance for the club in its meeting with Stirling County on Sunday (David Hands writes).

Shelford, the former New Zealand captain, will lead a stronger Northampton side than might have been expected with so many clubs keen to rest leading players. He will be joined by two other internationals, Ian Hunter and Gary Pearce, and two B internationals, Frank Packman and Harvey Thorneycroft, against opponents who have enjoyed a successful season in the first division of the McEwan's League.

Shelford, 36, has been in Italy as player-coach to Roma, but is spending Christmas in England and will be a popular guest at Franklins Gardens.

Most clubs leave their holiday fixtures until Monday. Leicester's annual encounter with the Barbarians takes place on Tuesday and is notable for the omission of John Liley, the club's leading points scorer in each of the last four seasons.

Liley has struggled with a hamstring problem this season and Wayne Kilford retains the place.

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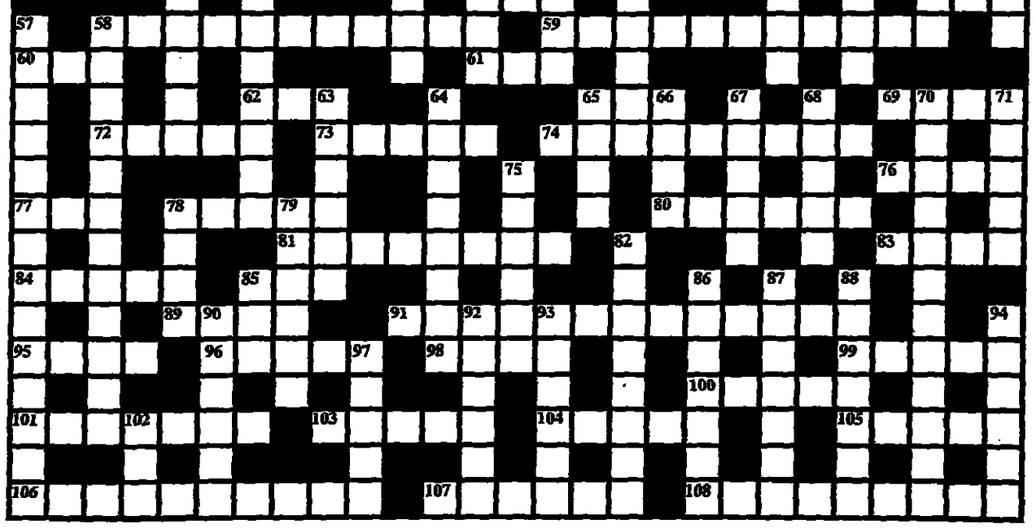
to arrive by Wednesday, January 12, 1994. The Sports Editor's decision is final. Usual rules apply, no correspondence.

ACROSS

1. Where the long ball game is served? (9).
6. Not an artificial pitch (6).
9. She played mixed doubles with John Lloyd (5-5).
13. John, who returned to Leeds from Highbury (5).
14. Come in to bowl (3-2).
15. Layer it on for the team event (5).
16. I can tap for the skipper (7).
18. Well balanced starting price (5).
20. Godfrey, who kept his gloves on for England (5).
21. An Irish football team in a hard struggle (4).
24. The club managed by Joe Jordan (5).
26. Fencers will not be foiled by this (4).
27. Keeps the action warm in winter (9-4).
28. Tries for the bridge title, perhaps (4).
30. Torrance or Snead, perhaps (3).
31. Hop to a picture finish (5).
32. Cricket paradise in Calcutta? (4).
35. An old school game (4-4).
36. Combination of clubs (6).
39. It could be Paul, Bradley, Martin or Gubby (5).
41. Paid for on arrival by the sea angler? (3).
42. It can give racehorses quite a start (4).
43. The big one for tennis and rugby players (5-4).
45. Ted, who bowled over defences with Arsenal (5).
46. They are uttered by Olympic athletes (5).
48. Award for Lock and Ward? (4).
49. Cue advice, perhaps (3).
50. Marathoners do a long one (3).
53. They take it at Bisley (3).
56. Possess an unwanted goal (3).
58. Lineker, Wright or Shearer, for instance (4-6).
59. First England footballer capped 100 times (5-6).
60. A good extra? (3).
61. Fastest man in the House! (3).
62. Devilish Lincoln player? (3).
65. Yachtsmen are often all at it (3).
69. A boxer will do it with a headguard (4).
72. Not always draws on the coupon (5).
73. The Rockhampton Rocket (5).
74. Carried by a team, but not first class! (9).
76. Just go over for a nice one (1-3).
77. Chris or possibly his brother Alan (3).
78. Creaking in the ring, perhaps (5).
80. A greeny concoction to keep you going! (6).
81. Reverses to the second choices (8).
83. It could be advice on a transfer (4).
84. Mates often get together to form them (5).
85. You might be struck by it at the Boat Race (3).
89. Tacklers find it off-putting (4).
91. Runs against time (5-3-5).
95. Bristow or Cantona, perhaps (4).
96. Strips leaving the scrum? (5).
98. County of the Cowdreys (4).
99. Where Sunil shone brightest of all (5).
100. Like Lytham St Anne's, for instance (5).
101. Gunning for a top football club (7).
103. Sat in with Jimmy! (5).
104. Damaged the record? (5).
105. On course to be pressed into play (5).
106. Neat squire changes for a horse centre (10).
107. A sporting one like Bradman or Louis (6).
108. You can bet they signify the favourite (5-4).

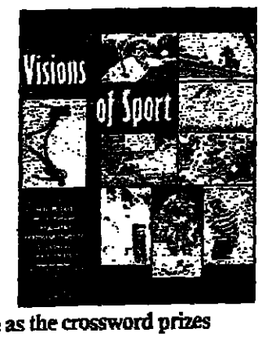
DOWN

1. A Cup for the strolling players? (6).
2. Will he toss and turn in the West Indies? (4-8).
3. What the boxer and footballer always does (5-2).
4. Tony Adams, for instance, does it at the back (7).
5. Where young players grow (7).
6. A benevolent Derby winner in 1991 (8).
7. It is made to the umpire (6).
8. I'd rest before taking it! (6).
9. Rowers catch them (5).
10. John Curry did it better than most (6).
11. An old racer who cares for animals? (3).
12. Called out by the timekeeper (3-6-5).
17. Played on the way to the green (8-4).
19. It extends the over (2-4).
22. It's natural for the champions to have it (6).
23. The Welsh Dean of goals (5).
25. Nelli, who was a queen of the bars (3).
29. Nips back from the bowler (4).
30. Michael, who opens in style for Australia (6).
32. A number of rowers (5).
33. A peerless tennis player (5).
34. He is interested in the percentages of sport (5).
37. Ray, who had a funny turn with Essex (4).
38. A part that golfers want to miss (4).
40. Not the original Sugar Ray (7).
44. They are played on as a matter of course (5).
47. Go in the hut to be strong (5).
51. Miss Bueno, who courted fame (5).
52. Helps, perhaps with a pass (7).
53. A race of Triomphe (3).
54. Initially, Frank Bruno got one at the Palace (3).
55. Oxbridge sporting colours (5).
57. Forsake a match? (7-3-4).
58. The master of Welsh wing-threequarters (6-6).
63. Gary on the tee (6).
64. As bowled by Shane Warne (3-5).
65. As made by Banks of England (4).
66. Arthur, who made tennis history (4).
67. Come in to take part (5).
68. A club for the pitch (5).
70. A 1960 Olympic 100 metres bronze medallist (5-7).
71. Joe, who manages at Boundary Park (5).
75. Possibly the first for cricket and football (6).
78. His goals have come in a hurry at Anfield (4).
79. Gives and takes in the sock exchange (6).
82. He managed at Carrow Road and Maine Road (4-4).
85. A number suited to leaders (3).
86. Are they quite dotty about cricket? (7).
87. On my toe for a snooker player (4-3).
88. It carries winter winners and losers to the top (7).
90. Does it grow on the table? (1-5).
92. A middle man like Carling (6).
93. Be last to bring the horse home (6).
94. They are made to get by (6).
97. The 1982 World Cup hosts (5).
102. Keep it on the ball in all sports (3).



COMPILED BY NORMAN GILLER





The books that feature as the crossword prizes

NAME:.....

ADDRESS:.....

.....

DAYTIME TELEPHONE:.....

Fifa accused of hijacking world ranking scheme

BY JOHN GOODBODY

FIFA, criticised for ignoring Pelé at the 1994 World Cup draw last week, was yesterday accused of "high-handed" behaviour by a British mathematician, who claims that the world governing body of football has hijacked his scheme for a ranking of countries.

Professor Richard Pollard, a statistician at the University of Malawi, and his partner, Professor James Delany, a former colleague at California Polytechnic State University, want "recognition and financial compensation" for giving Fifa the original idea of a world classification.

In its first end-of-year ranking list published yesterday, Fifa ranked Germany as the world's leading football nation. The criteria used for the classification include points awarded or deducted for winning, drawing and losing; results at home and away; and regional strengths and weaknesses. When the ranking scheme was announced in August, João Havelange, the president of Fifa, said it was "the result of four years of intense research, taking carefully weighted criteria into consideration".

However, on January 5, 1990, Professor Pollard, then working at the California Polytechnic State University, wrote to Sepp Blatter, Fifa's general secretary, outlining the scheme he had developed with Professor Delany. They had used a computer and enclosed a set of rankings for those countries for which they had complete results: Europe and North, Central and South America. These rankings were also published in a Scottish football magazine, *The Punter*.

Professor Pollard even suggested the eventual sponsor, Coca-Cola. He wrote: "I also believe that this would be an attractive proposition for a multi-national sponsor ... the 'Fifa Coca-Cola world football rankings', for example, would provide regular extensive exposure throughout the world, both to Fifa and the sponsor."

FIFA RANKINGS

1, Germany; 2, Italy; 3, Brazil; 4, Norway; 5, Spain; 6, Denmark; 7, Holland; 8, Argentina; 9, Sweden; 10, Ireland; 11, England; 12, Switzerland; 13, Romania; 14, Russia; 15, France; 16, Mexico; 17, Nigeria; 18, Uruguay; 19, RCS; 20, Portugal; 21, Colombia; 22, United States; 23, Cameroon; 24, Belgium. Others: equal 29, Bulgaria, Morocco; 34, Greece; 36, Saudi Arabia; 41, South Korea; 59, Bolivia.

Guido Tognoni, the Fifa head of public and press relations, said in his reply on April 30, 1990: "In principle, Fifa is interested in this matter but can follow up on it only after conclusion of the World Cup final competition in Italy. We shall revert to it and thank you in the meantime for your interest."

Following the World Cup, Professor Pollard offered to send a discussion paper, describing his system and even offering to visit Fifa headquarters in Switzerland. However, Fifa did not reply, even when Professor Pollard sent updated rankings.

Eventually, Professor Pollard wrote to Havelange on January 9, 1992, and a further letter to Tognoni on February 4. This brought a response, dated February 26, 1992, from Fifa. Tognoni said: "During the past two years, Fifa also looked into the matter of a world ranking system. We engaged a specialist from the Zurich Technical University to work out a programme, which is already in an advanced state. Moreover, a third party submitted us an additional programme taking up the same idea. After thorough examination, Fifa has decided to develop the programme here in Zurich with the Technical University."

Yesterday Tognoni accepted that Professor Pollard had submitted an idea in 1990. However, he added that "during the past few years, similar projects have been offered to us from various parties". He said that a world ranking *per se* was not an original idea because it already existed in other sports.

Tognoni stated that Fifa's project had been developed solely in co-operation with the Technical University of Zurich, without "any foreign intellectual help or idea. A recognition of the work of Professor Pollard from our side is not warranted. The central point of our world ranking is not the idea but the computer programme we developed for the analysis of the results".

However, the question remains why, when Professor Pollard first raised the idea in 1990, Fifa did not tell him in their reply that the work had already started at Zurich University.

Wells leads England to seventh victory

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN CAPE TOWN

THE last time Alan Wells came to South Africa with an England side, as a member of Mike Gatting's unofficial party four years ago, he was an unwelcome tourist. Yesterday, he went back to Langa township as the captain of England A and top-scored with 65 as a Western Province Invitation XI fell 19 runs short. It was England's seventh win from seven matches on tour.

Langa is the sort of place Ali Bacher had in mind when the South Africans lured English professionals here in the Seventies and Eighties to build bridges. Their exclusionist opponents were guided by a different principle: there can be no normal sport in an abnormal society. In the blistering heat of the John Passmore Oval, named after the white businessman who introduced cricket to the young blacks of Langa, all was sweetness and light. The locals might have preferred a home win but, as everywhere, they were delighted to welcome an official England team.

Wells coached at Langa in 1984-85 when he was one of those pros "wintering out". The club was more barren in those days, he recalled, with fewer facilities. Some of his opponents yesterday were young lads then, learning the game. In time, many more will surely emerge. Passmore was evidently one of those forces of nature who defy categorisation in a restrictive society. Before his death, at 80, two years ago, he was one of South African sport's great benefactors.

In the first week of this tour, an English-born lady at the British embassy in Johannesburg claimed she had "no idea" that townships like Alexandra existed. That was not Passmore's way. He got in his car and found out what Langa was like. He then resolved to use cricket as a social tool, implementing his wealth to finance his aims, and his work will live on through the John Passmore Trust, of which Peter May is a patron.

On the field, it was a modern Surrey player that English eyes observed with interest. Martin Bicknell, playing his first game for two weeks, after coming through a morning test on injured ribs, bowled with enough zest to put him into consideration for the four-day game against Western Province.

Bicknell completed his quota of overs, taking the first wicket when the left-handed Touzel was bowled around his legs and returning to have Hylton Ackerman caught by Crawley, who was keeping wicket in place of Rhodes. The latter was a handy wicket because Ackerman, who shares his father's given name, was nudging the Invitation XI towards their target.

At that stage, they needed 42 from five overs with half their wickets in hand. Ackerman Jr looks a well-organised batsman but, when the charge came, he surrendered a skier to Crawley. Adrian Dale is a less certain starter on Boxing Day. He dislocated the little finger of his left hand in catching Conrad on the mid-wicket boundary and, although the digit has been put back, it is sore.

England owed a score of 170 for nine to the fifth-wicket stand of 87 Dale shared with Wells, after they had been 19 for four. The batting order was turned inside out to give everyone a decent chance but only Wells enjoyed playing on an unreliable surface.

Memo to Langa: to give your best young cricketers a decent chance, get the pitch right.

Melbourne reunion, page 28

SCORECARD

ENGLAND A

M N Lathwell b Simalela	3
M B Loye c Solomons b Meyer	7
A Dale c Malembe b Meyer	28
R D B Croft c Conrad b Simalela	4
D G Cork c Solomons b Meyer	1
*A P Wells c Touzel b Meyer	65
†J P Crawley run out	9
M P Bicknell not out	26
D Gough b Barnes	13
M C Ilott run out	0
Extras (lb 1, w 9, nb 4)	14
Total (9 wkts, 45 overs)	170
P M Such did not bat.	

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-13, 2-13, 3-18, 4-19, 5-106, 6-128, 7-133, 8-170, 9-170.
BOWLING: Meyer 9-1-25-4; Simalela 9-0-28-2; Barnes 9-0-29-1; Bulbring 9-1-39-0; Conrad 9-0-48-0.

WESTERN PROVINCE XI

B Touzel b Bicknell	5
H D Ackerman c Crawley b Bicknell	68
T Tholeni b Gough	11
R Isaacs c Ilott b Such	7
*S Conrad c Dale b Such	6
B Matamba b Gough	19
†M Solomons b Gough	7
A Meyer not out	15
V Barnes not out	0
Extras (b 3, lb 4, w 2, nb 4)	13
Total (7 wkts, 45 overs)	151

S Bulbring, S Simalela did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-16, 2-37, 3-62, 4-83, 5-127, 6-129, 7-140.
BOWLING: Bicknell 9-1-29-2; Ilott 5-1-10-0; Gough 9-1-32-3, Cork 6-3-17-0; Croft 8-2-30-0; Such 8-0-26-2



SIMON WALKER

Fashanu leaves the Football Association headquarters at Lancaster Gate after yesterday's lengthy hearing

FA pondering evidence in Fashanu case

BY KEITH PIKE

JOHN Fashanu will find out today whether he is to be charged over the incident that left Gary Mabbutt with severe facial injuries. A Football Association commission of inquiry yesterday adjourned after a four-hour meeting without having reached a decision.

Explaining the delay, David Bloomfield, an FA spokesman, said: "There are no legal complications, it is just the sheer weight of evidence. We need more time to sift through it. We cannot just sit down for two minutes and come up with a decision."

Fashanu, the Wimbledon striker, and Mabbutt, the Tottenham Hotspur defender, sat ten yards from each other throughout the hearing, prompted by Tottenham's complaints over Fashanu's challenge on Mabbutt during a Premiership match at White Hart Lane on November 24.

Mabbutt suffered seven fractures to his cheekbone and eye socket after being caught by Fahsanu's elbow as they contested a header. Bloomfield said a video of the incident was played back yesterday "a couple of dozen times".

Keith Hackett, the match referee who did not penalise Fahsanu at the time and who stood by his decision when subsequently asked to review it by the FA, also attended the hearing. Asked if Hackett had now changed his mind, Bloomfield said: "We will talk about that when we announce our decision."

Mabbutt and Osvaldo Ardiles, the Tottenham manager, described the hearing as "very fair". Fashanu and the Wimbledon representatives refused to comment.

Jimmy Armfield, the former England captain appointed by the FA to lead the search for Graham Taylor's successor, said yesterday he was still hopeful that a new manager would be installed early in the new year.

Armfield, though, appeared to rule out the possibility of a part-time appointment. "I see the England manager's job as full-time," Armfield said. "Whether Kevin Keegan is to be involved in any capacity, I cannot say at the moment."

Keegan, the Newcastle United manager, Terry Venables, the former Tottenham chief executive, Howard Kendall, who recently resigned at Everton, and Howard Wilkinson, manager of Leeds United, are believed to have been on a shortlist drawn up by Armfield, from which an FA international sub-committee will select. It is possible, Armfield suggested yesterday, that a two-tier management structure could be introduced.

"We could have two people in mind and we have to see how it all fits together," he said. "Nothing has been decided yet.

"I have two people to see but that's not going to be easy over Christmas and the new year because of the crowded programme. That's why I use the term 'hopefully' when saying the new manager will be named early in the new year."

Sutton signs, page 30

"Choose your drink wisely.

After all,

you've got two ears and two eyes -

but only one mouth."

DR FRED LE FEVRE,
COSMETIC SURGEON, CALIFORNIA.



INTRODUCE SOME CALIFORNIAN INTO THE CONVERSATION.

E&J

SINGLE CASK MATURED BRANDY.

Tuigamala signs as Wigan prepare for old rivals



Tuigamala: powerful

Christopher Irvine on the arrival of a new hero to satisfy the Central Park faithful

John Dorahy's early correspondence on succeeding John Monie as Wigan's coach last summer summed up the priorities in rugby league's fanatical heartland. "Two things were wanted: beat St Helens and get us to Wembley," he said. "And, preferably, in that order."

As impressive as Wigan, traditionally slow starters, are beginning to look, Dorahy knows that the first judgment will come against St Helens in the Stones Bitter championship at Central Park on Sunday. Rarely has the Lancashire Christmas derby been so tantalisingly spiced, although, for once, events off the field promise even greater interest.

Va'aiga Tuigamala, the New Zealand rugby union winger, is apparently signed up on a four-year deal worth in excess of £300,000, and Wigan's present to themselves will be unveiled to a crowd of 30,000, possibly by way of a half-time satellite link from Auckland.

Tuigamala's reported capture, although separate offers have also been made recently to Tim Horan and Jason Little, the Australian rugby union centres, represents a personal triumph for Jack Robinson, Wigan's persuasive chairman. Dorahy, however, has said that he already has the world's best wingers in Martin Offiah and Jason Robinson, whose try-scoring exploits put Tuigamala's modest record into the shade.

Talk of Offiah being sold is nonsense. For a start, nobody could afford him. Tuigamala's conversion could possibly start in the centre, where his 17-stone force might best be used to break opposition lines.

The back row offers a possible longer-term alternative for someone of his huge physique. For the time being, comparisons with Billy Boston, Wigan's legendary wing of the 50s and 60s, is based purely on physical appearance. In opting to start at Wigan, Tuigamala, 24, has only added to the formidability of his task in changing rugby codes.

After a couple of stalls, signs are that the Wigan machine is starting to purr. St Helens are stuck in low gear, and have won only one of their last four games. For his first match since being appointed coach, Eric Hughes, formerly at Widnes and Rochdale, has a fiery baptism.

Hughes, 41, who has coached the club's Academy youth side since the summer, represents the continuity St Helens, in a state of flux, badly require. In declaring his sole purpose yesterday as overhauling Wigan, Hughes said he had no magic wand, yet a defeat of the old enemy might just lift the spell from the Saints.

Last season's five meetings between the sides — St Helens won three, including the Premiership title — were nearly all outstanding, and none more so than the 41-6 thumping of Wigan on Boxing Day last year.

St Helens' supporters, unfairly, have associated the defection of Gary Connolly, the Great Britain centre, to their arch-rivals with much of the club's present woes. Connolly is right to expect a heated reception on Sunday in a cherry-and-white shirt. However, he is starting to exercise the elusive influence that marked him out at Knowsley Road and cost Wigan £250,000.

مكذا من الأصل

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ANNE McELVOY
Chasing the Moscow turkey
The expat spirit, page 10



MAXWELL DAVIES
The Times children's carol
Shepherds of Hoy, page 7



JANE MACQUITTY
Celebrates New Year champagne
Bubbly for every palate, page 6

CARIBBEAN HOLIDAYS TO BE WON
Page 17

WEEKEND

O little town of Bedlam



In the teeth of cold, rain and flu, **Paul Heiney** brings off a miracle for his Nativity play

And So It Came To Pass . . . or nearly didn't come to pass at all. I know the birth of Jesus is as much of a miracle as a soul can ask, but as the day of our farmyard Nativity drew nigh, I got the uneasy feeling that it was going to take another equally spectacular act of God if this little play of ours was not going to be a wash-out.

As farmyards go, ours takes some beating when it comes to staging a Nativity play. We have lambing shelters thatched with straw, lowly cattle-sheds, and mangers in which babies can be lain. We even have cattle who will low on cue, and sheep with which shepherds can abide. We tried it last year and old ladies wept at the simple beauty of it. This year it was my turn to shed tears.

The trouble has been the rain. Our normally dry and cosy yard had become a swamp and, as the flood waters rose and notices were being pinned up in shop windows across the county making our Nativity play inevitable, mighty dread filled my troubled mind. I convened an emergency meeting of the Three Wise Men: Farmer White, the lad who drives his big digger, and me. Then, as if things weren't bad enough already, word came through from the village that Joseph had got flu.

Actually, the cast was becoming a bit of a problem. Finding the children was the easy bit, for they were provided (like all good emergency supplies) by the local branch of the British Red Cross to whom we were donating all the ticker money. The admirable Mrs Low had marshalled them, rehearsed them, and persuaded them out of attending a party at the local pub which clashed directly with our Nativity play. I regret to say that a few shepherds did fall for the pub's invitation, but that is shepherds for you. We had some good recorder-playing siblings from up the road instead. No, the kids were fine; it was the livestock that was the worry. I needed a cart-horse to bring Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. Prince is too young and lively and was quite likely to have bolted past the inn, with the result that Jesus would have been born somewhere between here and the outskirts of Ipswich. Both Star and Blue are up to the part but yonder Star, deliberately I think, rolled for so long in a patch of particularly noxious mud that there was never any hope of getting him clean enough to go on stage. Blue got the role. I decided that I would not break it to him at this stage that he would also be cast as the Three Kings' camel.

Now all that remained was to choose the cow who was to pay homage to the infant Jesus. Sage, the white cow, was the obvious choice, but she seemed a little sniffy when I mentioned the idea. Last year she bridled visibly when the radiant Angel Gabriel appeared: if anyone is going to be snow-white, gasped at and lauded with trumpets, it is going to be her, or she isn't playing. The job fell to Bilberry, as the only one who could safely be led on a halter. I decided Dilly, the farm-worker to whom all disasters have already befallen, was the man to lead her in: whatever happened he would cope. Then I got a call: Dilly had the flu.

It is difficult being impresario and farmer at the same time. Half of me saw this play as having hit potential and once word had spread the entire cast of sheep, pigs, cattle and cart-horse would be marching down Broadway to critical acclaim. On the other hand, the farmer in me could not bear to think of the newly-strawed yard being trampled upon by the crowd. Beautiful, clean straw it would be; and now 200 pairs of wellingtons were going to trample it into a muddy mass which I would be left to struggle with while they were all back round their hearths imagining farming was an idyllic way of life. There again, I pondered, I could buy all the straw in the world if we hit the big time. I saw Sage's name in lights, Bilberry dancing to a Lloyd-Webber hit. Then it rained some more.

It is wisely said that once you are in a hole you stop digging, but the Three Wise Men were determined to do exactly the reverse. Desperate to rid ourselves of the ever-rising tide, we decided to reverse the Moses trick and dig a huge chasm to see if the rainwater would disappear down it. It did. A miracle. We filled the hole with stones and hoped our problems were behind us. I congratulated Farmer White for parting the seas, and prepared for the holy birth. Merry gentlemen we became, nothing would us dismay. Then it started to rain again.

Past three o'clock, on a foul rainy evening. And the play was due to start at four. The lighting chap doubted it was safe: if there were going to be any stars in the bright sky, it would be when the rising water hit his fuse box. I almost decided to cancel. And then, how silently, how silently, a wondrous gift is given. The low, heavy cloud lifted, the rain ceased, and the glimmering light of the setting sun fell upon the farmyard. We looked at each other, joyful and triumphant.

Vernon, the narrator, arrived. He was to perch on the rails of the cattle-yard, telling the story while the children acted it out. I will not say much of Vernon except that he has a strong voice, lives in a caravan in a wood, makes pegs, and arrived improbably dressed in a flowing gown which once adorned the waxwork of Martin Luther in Madame Tussaud's. Method actors!

Tony arrived to play the Angel Gabriel, complete with trumpet and newly composed fanfares. We asked him to come dressed in white, but did not reckon on it being a pair of overalls stamped Nuclear Electric. He had, however, carefully concealed the logo with tinsel. We thought at least that he would glow naturally. The audience were arriving by now: one dainty lady turned up in Gucci high heels and for all I know she is still stuck in the mud. We will try to get her out for Easter.

At four o'clock sharp, we started. The melodeon player quietly gave us "In the Bleak Midwinter", and the air noticeably chilled as the sun disappeared. "And it came to pass . . ." intoned Vernon, whereon the cattle decided it was time that they should be heard. Never has so much mooing been made by so few. Vernon struggled and the audience stifled their giggles. It is probably the first time in history that the line "and a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed" has got a laugh.

The horse came in smartly and delivered Mary and Joseph, the children sang "Away in a Manger". It was not until "The First Noel" that the lump came in my throat. I have worried about this filthy yard for weeks, spent anxious nights worrying what would happen if the frenzied cow bolted into the audience or if nobody enjoyed themselves. But now, with the sickle moon looking down upon us, the carthorse standing almost to attention, and a crowd belting out "Born is the king of I . . . is . . . rael", I could have cried.

And I would have done, had I not suddenly remembered that there was no gold, frankincense and myrrh for the Three singing Kings to deliver. I grabbed three huge mangelwurzels from the heap and thrust them into the Kings' fists. "Put them in the manger," I said. Then it was the turn of the cow to pay homage to the baby Jesus. No! If that cow sees those mangels lying in the manger, there will be no holding her . . . but she did not spot them, and instead spent her time mooing at the other cows, who mooed back most of the way through "O Come all Ye Faithful".

And the lights went down, and 200 pairs of boots squelched homeward, and Mrs Low counted out £400 in notes, deep and crisp and even, for her very good cause. And I fell into a deep and dreamless sleep. I presume the silent stars went by. I was past caring.

Illustration by Joseph Wright

Simple Act to save the parkland

Marcus Binney calls for protection for our finest landscapes

COUNTRY MATTERS

The English landscape, I boldly assert, is mankind's greatest contribution to the beauty of this planet. Other countries, of course, starting with Scotland and Wales, boast more spectacular natural scenery, but for fine countryside, enhanced and transformed by man, consciously combining beauty with utility, England is equal to any.

Government protects this landscape with National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), but ironically has yet to protect the kernel from which the great improving ideas spread out — the parks and gardens of country estates.

Parks have fallow deer and white cattle, noble trees, straw-coloured grass, and reed-fringed lakes crossed by classical bridges. You will find walkers, anglers, birdwatchers, but are more likely to have the magnificent expanse of scenery to yourself.

Whenever I spread out the map to plot my next foray, I scan it for the peppering of dots which mark a country house park. These places are often thought of as creations of the 18th-century landscape craze, but many are far older. "Parks there are in England, more than in all Europe," says the cosmography of 1677. Many date back to medieval times. Capability Brown's lakes often began life as mill ponds.

The beauty of these parks is the impression of a primeval Elysium — rolling pasture unbroken by hedges or fences, where animals are free to roam. In these parks the English marriage of art and nature has its finest expression.

Yet for most of this century, parks have been under attack. In the Twenties and Thirties, dozens fell victim to timber merchants who systematically felled every avenue and clump. When large houses were requisitioned in the Second World War, numerous herds of deer simply escaped into the surrounding countryside.

"Conspicuous waste," cried the land economists of the post-war austerity years, advocating that yet more parks should vanish under the plough.

County highway engineers planning new roads saw parks as a soft touch. In West Sussex, "Bypass" Godber, former chief executive of the county council, was eventually frustrated in his attempt to drive a road through the middle of Petworth Park — celebrated in some of Turner's finest paintings. In Hampshire, it took a High Court action just to get a public inquiry into proposals to slice a road through the great park at Highclere Castle. At Audley End, the council decided the park was just the spot for a new sewage works.

Even when parks were designated as conservation areas, planners seemed powerless to prevent the felling of any magnificent park tree a farmer wanted down. At Gunton in Norfolk permission was given to fell 80 mature trees, 10 to 16 feet in girth, while the Forestry Commission carved up the shelter belt around the park in the hope of selling it off to caravanners.

The list of losses is long and grim but where owners and local people had been willing to fight, there have been signal victories — at Leeds Castle in Kent, Rockbear in Devon and, most recently, in Warwick Castle park.

Far from being purely private fiefdoms many of these parks are well used by local people. Villagers can walk their dogs from dawn to dusk, many are crossed by public footpaths.

Now these parks have a series of new champions in the county gardens trusts which are being set up all over England (you can find yours through the Association of Garden Trusts).

With grants for set-aside there is the prospect of parks long under the plough being put back to pasture and replanted. The soaring demand for venison means that park deer can once again be a paying proposition.

When English Heritage was created, one resourceful MP ensured it was charged with the task of drawing up a register of historic parks and gardens. Twelve hundred are now included, but they receive no statutory protection. The register offers only guidance, which local authorities can freely overide, dismiss or ignore.

In France, by contrast, the government started to designate great parks and gardens as *sites classées* almost as soon as they began to protect monuments, well over a century ago.

What is needed in England is a simple act of Parliament protecting historic parks and gardens from changes that will fundamentally alter their character. It is vital to avoid any suspicion that owners might find themselves being told what to plant in their gardens, or the bill would be hotly contested.

The procedure for SSSIs provides a model. When an SSSI is designated, English Nature (as the Nature Conservancy Council was renamed in 1991) has to indicate its special features and anyone with proposals affecting these features must give notice.

Here is the simplest of opportunities for the new Department of National Heritage to flex its muscles and act, where its predecessors have proved so lame.

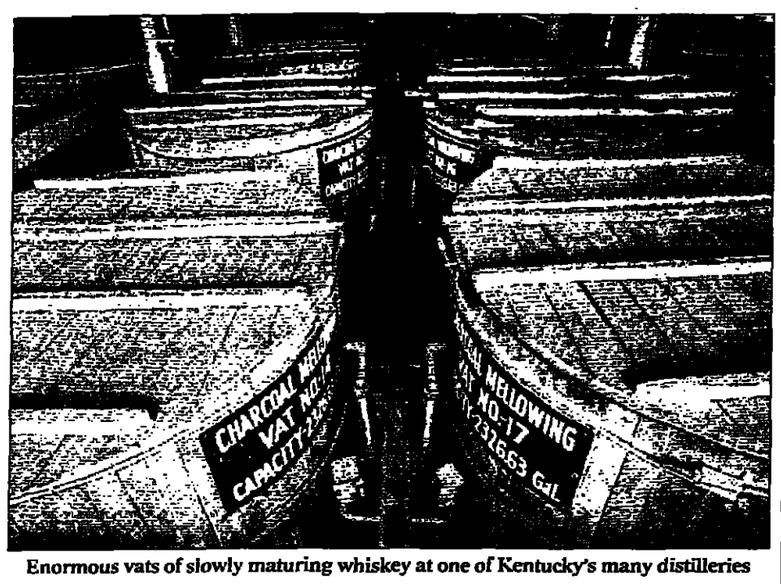
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Enormous vats of slowly maturing whiskey at one of Kentucky's many distilleries

The land where bourbon is king

The pleasures and paradoxes of Kentucky are intoxicating, reports Denis Archdeacon

My not very vicious penknife presented the first paradox in a week of Kentucky paradoxes. At Gatwick it was confiscated by a security guard and returned only as my connecting flight was about to leave Detroit — on the assumption, an American fellow passenger suggested, that nobody trying to get out of Detroit was likely to want to murder the pilot.

Louisville is a good centre from which to explore northern Kentucky. It is big enough (pop 680,000) to support decent hotels and not so big as to be crime-ridden: only two policemen have been shot in the past year. The Seelbach, down on the Ohio River, on Fourth Avenue and Muhammad Ali Boulevard (the "Louisville Lip" was brought up just along the street) is large and solidly old-fashioned. Bourbon is all around, horse-racing is in the air and Trappist monks are just down the road at Thomas Merton's Gethsemani Abbey. Bluegrass racing, bible-belt Baptists, monasteries and whiskey make a rich brew, although the blue grass is green, the Baptists are beleaguered by booze and the Trappists are not as silent as they were.

Settlers first came in the late 18th century, from the north-east as Catholics began to be forced out of Maryland and to push through the Cumberland Gap into what was Virginia's Kentucky county.

With later settlement came the bible-belters and the wet-dry battles that continued through prohibition to our own day, when 80 or more of the state's 120 counties are dry. The big cities are wet as, of course, is Catholic country. But Bourbon county is dry and Christian county is wet, and the paradoxes do not end there. The Civil War found Kentucky officially neutral, although it supplied the North with Abraham Lincoln and 100,000 troops, and the South with 40,000 troops and Jefferson Davis.

The state's disadvantages are few — weak coffee, obesity and lamb fries (sheep's testicles are a local delicacy) — and its heart lies with its bourbon.

Whiskey is everywhere: in Louisville's Bristol Bar on Main Street, which boasts a sign advising customers that drinking before conception can be unhealthy, and in the tattier "good-'ole-boy" bars, where the signs are more robust. My favourite: "No shirt, no shoes, no service."

Of course, the visitor can ignore the lakes and marinas, the riding, the heritage trails, Lincoln's birthplace and all the rest, and concentrate on "whiskey", as all the distilleries spell their product, except the one near Loretto where the best of the bourbons, Maker's Mark Whisky, is made.

Like many distillers, Maker's Mark runs tours at its plant near Bardstown, the state bourbon capital. Maker's Mark, with its small output of fewer than 40 barrels a day, can afford to rely on hand-production methods in preparing its premium liquor. The bonus for the tourist is the museum-distillery's setting, a wooded valley peppered with cornfields.

Other distilleries also offer tours, as do some of the plants where the white oak whiskey barrels are made. By federal law, bourbon can be matured only in new barrels. That assures work for the coopers and, for the distillers, a useful trade in used barrels with Scotland (where the coopers have little work) and winemaking countries. Some firms gain a double benefit. Brown-Forman, for instance, owns Louisville's Blue Grass Cooperage, whose main customer is the Jack Daniel Distillery in Tennessee — also owned by Brown-Forman.

The best known distillery is American Brands' Jim Beam plant at Claremont. Jim Beam's great grandson, Freddy Noe, showed me round. He is a big man — "two inches taller and he'd be round", drawled one of his competitors — but he led me nimbly up and down the plant.

The tour included one of the great warehouses where 200-litre barrels of bourbon are stacked dozens high in monastic calm, slumbering away the years of waiting for the bottling line.

Then it was home for dinner with Booker Noe, Jim Beam's master distiller emeritus and Freddy's "Daddy". Booker is an enthusiast, pounding out over the din produced by his 50in-screen television set the virtues of Kentucky's other great premium brand, named "Booker's" for him and selected by him from barrel samples sent home from the distillery. Any dissent is brushed aside with an emphatic "Hellfire, no" (two beats of his great fist on the knee between the "Hellfire" and the "no").

Never has so much dark, slightly caramelly, ultra-high-proof bourbon been poured down my throat in so many forms: as mint juleps by the glass, as Booker's ditto, in the steak sauce and over the ice-cream. Perhaps it was in the creamed potatoes, on the peas and over the pecan pie as well. But by then I was far too tired and emotional to notice.

Getting there

- *Denis Archdeacon travelled courtesy of the Kentucky Distillers' Association.*
- *Delta Airlines and American Airlines fly to Louisville, via New York or Detroit, for £990-£1,110 return.*
- *The Seelbach Hotel, 500 4th Avenue, Louisville, Kentucky, 40202 (0101 502 585 3200) offers accommodation for about $85-$100 a night.*
- *For local tourist information, contact the Louisville Convention and Visitors' Bureau, 400 South 1st Street, Louisville, Kentucky 40202 (0101 502 584 21210).*

A clockwork package

Nigel Williamson visits the birthplace of Alpine skiing on the world's finest railway. The snow was good, too

The train will never get up the mountain in this weather, our 16-year-old son gloomily predicted as the snow swirled outside the carriage window. Climbing slowly through forests of trees so laden with snow that the boughs seemed about to snap, we conceded that he was probably right.

We had not reckoned with Swiss railways. The train made the long, steep ascent out of Lauterbrunnen to the chocolate-box Alpine village of Wengen without difficulty. It even arrived on time, as precise as a Swiss watch.

The Swissair "fly luggage" scheme meant our bags had been checked in at Heathrow and would be effortlessly delivered a few hours later to our hotel, the Schweizerheim.

We had set out, a family of four, for our usual February half-term skiing holiday, concerned by reports of poor snow. How misguided we were swiftly became apparent next morning when we met up with Urs, our ski guide, all part of the package. "I am off to play cards in the coffee shop. No trains up today. Too dangerous. Go back to bed and meet me back here in two hours."

Even Swiss railways had to admit defeat in such weather. When we re-encountered Urs, his grin suggested that his game of cards had left his fellow guides the poorer. It had stopped snowing and he had better news, too. Although the trains remained out of action, there was a cable car to the huge Mannlichen bowl which would be operating after lunch. With Urs as our guide, we spent the afternoon exploring the bowl's varied mix of runs.

By the second morning the trains were running again and the pewter-coloured skies had given way to glorious Alpine sunshine. It remained that way all week, and under the watchful eye of Urs, we explored the entire sunlit Jungfrau region.

But if the skiing was spectacular, something more makes Wengen special. There may be other pretenders, but few have a stronger claim to the title of the birthplace of Alpine skiing than Wengen and its friendly rival village of Mürren. For more than 70 years they have remained the favourite ski location of the British, a far-flung, snowy outpost of the Home Counties.

Apart from the addition of drag lifts and a cable car, they have changed little since a group of enterprising Brits first persuaded the local stationmaster to keep the Jungfrau railway open in winter, transforming an uphill sport into the headlong, downwards rush of today.

Cars are banned from the narrow streets of Wengen and Mürren. Even better, the slightly staid, Edwardian feel deters the wilder fringe of snow boarders. "Wengen is not the place for anyone in search of a riotous nightlife," says *The Good Ski Guide*. Praise heaven.

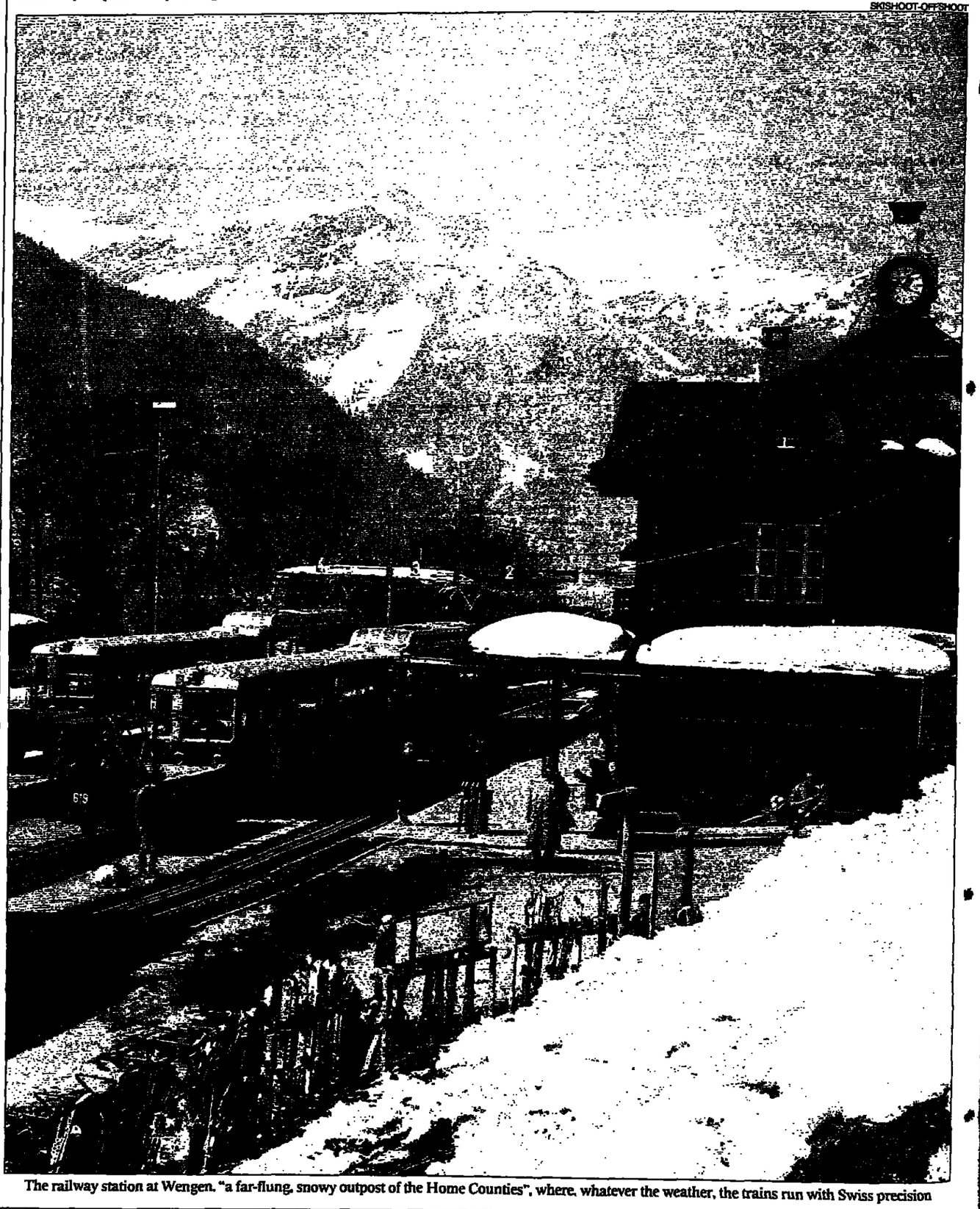
However, we did find our kind of *après-ski* in the time-warp of the Hotel Falken. Its bizarre collection of Victorian fixtures and fittings, in which nothing quite matched anything else, we found charming.

So were many of the English families we met who had been coming to Wengen for years. Some boasted connections going back generations, and the descendants of Sir Henry Lunn, the first to see the commercial potential of Alpine skiing back in 1910, are still in evidence.

I think the Williamson family may just join them.

- *Nigel Williamson and his family travelled with Swiss Travel Service (0920-46391). Prices for a week in Wengen on half-board start at £414. Special ten-night packages over Christmas and the New Year start at £569. Luggage is taken care of by the Swissair "fly luggage" scheme. The services of a ski guide in Wengen are included.*

SKISHOOT-OFFSHOOT



The railway station at Wengen, "a far-flung, snowy outpost of the Home Counties", where, whatever the weather, the trains run with Swiss precision

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vices & VIRTUES

Edward Marriott asks people in the public eye to confess their sins and celebrate their saving graces



ANDY KERSHAW
Disc jockey

1st Pride: Anyone in the public eye inevitably takes satisfaction in their achievements. I am proud, and ruthlessly self-critical. I'm proud of my girlfriend Juliet Banner, whose restaurant, Banner's in Crouch End, has been a roaring success. And I'm proud of our Elizabeth, who made a demo tape for Radio 1 when she was working in Leeds and then became a Radio 1 DJ.

2nd Wrath: I have a short fuse. Michael Howard gets the brunt, and Peter Lilley. More than anything it's injustice that winds me up. I don't suffer fools.

3rd Lust: Oh yeah, I've a weakness for that. This doesn't mean I want to go to bed with everyone, I've just got a healthy sex drive. I do drive a Harley Davidson motorbike but there's no connection there.

4th Gluttony: I don't eat very much — there's nothing in my fridge. No, I tell a lie. There's a packet of rattlesnake eggs that somebody brought me from Texas.

5th Envy: I think of myself as the luckiest person I know — how could I be envious of anyone else? My life is a schoolboy's dream. I do for a living what I like doing most as a pastime — boring the nation stupid with my favourite records on the radio and going off to potty republics and writing pieces for newspapers and magazines.

6th Avariee: I have no avarice. I live in a one-bedroom flat in Crouch End. I'm drowning in my own work, sitting surrounded by piles of CDs, Zairean dance records and newspaper cuttings about Haiti and Malawi, which are in danger of toppling over and crushing me to death. The only thing that I would really like is another room in this flat.

7th Sloth: I wish there were an eighth day in the week. There's not enough time to do everything. I work all the time because I love it: I find it impossible to go on holiday. I tried sitting on the beach in the Caribbean and after about three hours, finishing a book, staring round, having yet another ludicrous drink made in a pineapple, I thought, "What do we do now?" I went back down to Haiti five weeks ago, and on our way down there my girlfriend said, "Let's have a couple of days on Miami Beach." God, I was bored.

1st Justice: This Government is a bunch of unprincipled, fraudulent second-raters. They haven't even got any style or class. I vote Labour, and I wish a few more would join me. I do try and be just. I got involved in Haiti five years ago and now I'm involved in it for life.

2nd Fortitude: I didn't want to come to London. In the end, I came to work for somebody for ten days in January 1984 and I'm still here. I got lucky. I always get asked whether it was a handicap having a northern accent — it may have been an advantage. What is hard is getting writing jobs as a Radio 1 DJ. If you start out doing one thing you get typecast. There is an assumption that Radio 1 DJs must be thick. It required fortitude to overcome that.

3rd Charity: I'm fairly charitable. Nobody would ever accuse me of being mean. If you are one of my close friends and I've got something, it's as good as yours. I don't love my fellow men and women. I love some of my fellow men and women.

4th Faith: If I have faith, it's humanistic, not religious. I never go to church. I don't have faith in people — how can I have faith in people if every four years they vote in this lot? My faith in people varies from person to person.

5th Hope: I don't have much hope for the future of Europe, or the former Soviet Union. But if you go out and work hard at what you do, you don't have to consider hope. If you realise that, you don't have a lot of hoping to do.

6th Prudence: I'm fairly reckless. I like to make things happen, and I do things on the spur of the moment.

7th Temperance: I'm temperate with alcohol but not with life. Life is too short not to be gulped down. One thing that really motivates me is the idea that you're here for just a twinkling and then it's all over. Cram it in.

- *Andy Kershaw is currently presenting the travel programme* Four Corners *on Radio 4.*

هكذا من الأصل

Members of *The Times* staff outline their peace-keeping initiatives for the holiday, as **Peter Barnard** considers the Wenceslas family

Look out, it's the feast of Stephen

King Wenceslas wasn't Good, he was up to his crenellations in relatives. What King Wenceslas needed was an excuse to get out of the palace. The trouble with being a king was that you acquired the extended family to end all extended families, and the full and awful extent of them was apparent every Christmas, when they turned up expecting to be fed and wined. While they fought and whined.

There was little chance of escape. Christmas Day was treated like a Sunday: you could not even nip round to Halfords. In AD927, Sunday trading might as well have been a thousand years away.

Why did he fall for this extended nightmare? It ran in his extended family. As Wenceslas stood gazing out of the palace window at the falling snow and the fallen drunks, he was dimly conscious of a hideous gaggle of cackling relatives ranged around the room behind him, from the ninth in line to the throne (aged one and three quarters) to the dreaded matriarch-in-law (aged 91).

Half of them seemed to be fighting over the remote control and half of that half kept changing their minds between Bohemia 1's *Telly Addicts*, whose Christmas edition was called *The First Noël*, and the very first showing on Bohemia 2 of *White Christmas*. Wenceslas was beginning to regret sanctioning a second channel. And it was still only Christmas Eve.

He swore to go away next year. He swore to go away every year. But come midwinter in Bohemia, travel was not so easy. The roads were clogged with snow. They could be cleared, but frankly you could walk faster than the average serf could push a snowplough.

Flying was out of the question: in all of Bohemia, there was not a Branson to be found.

So letting the relatives come to him was the least of all evils, or so it seemed in prospect. But the strain! If he had rung up Relate (patron: the Princess of Czechoslovakia), they would have told him that Christmas was followed by divorce as sure as the dud fairy light was the last one you unscrewed.

Divorce or worse. Take Christmas six years earlier, the year his mother murdered his grandmother. It was a sectarian murder, he would say that for it. His grandmother was a Christian woman and his mother was pagan. Nonetheless, his mother celebrated Christmas because it was the best way to get a new dishwasher and his grandmother tolerated this heresy because she was . . . because she was a Christian.

The problem was that his grandmother insisted on going to midnight mass, which meant she got up late on Christmas morning, which meant his mother had to stuff the bird and mince the pies (if that was what you did to pies), which meant that by Christmas lunch-time his mother was out on her feet from exhaustion and his grandmother was out on her back due to a delivery from Majestic Mead Warehouse.

It was a volatile situation brought to the boil when grandmother regained consciousness sufficiently to stick her crinkly face in the Aga and suggest that the tinfoil needed removing right now, whereas the mother took the view that you started basting ten minutes hence. It was good enough for that nice bloke on *Food and Drink* so it was good enough for her, you're always meddling, silly old bat, get out of my kitchen . . .

Bang. No, chop. A meat cleaver between the shoulder blades: it delayed lunch for two hours, which annoyed Wenceslas because it meant nobody got to see his Christmas broadcast (both channels), which that year was about the need to protect the environment.

> He swore to go away every year. But the roads were clogged with snow

Most Christmases were awful in lots of small ways rather than one big way. And the embarrassed adult silences were as lethal as the racket made by children trampling gifts underfoot in order to make play houses out of the boxes in which they arrived. There were silences that followed some crumbling duchess addressing a prince's wife by the name of the prince's mistress. There were silences following a grand duke's attempt to grab a handful of serving wench. There were nasty moments to do with who earned more than whom *vis-à-vis* the Civil List.

Why was it that not one of the 14 relatives who bought him a pair of breeches every year could get both the size and the colour right? He blanched at the thought of another post-Christmas trudge through the deep and crisp and even to line up at the Marks & Spencer exchanges counter.

Still, as Wenceslas gazed out, he recalled that it was not all bad. In a few minutes the children of the family would sing a Christmas song, as they did on every Christmas Eve. It was always the same song and Wenceslas smiled as he anticipated it:

Brightly shone the moon that night.
Though the frost was cruel.
When a poor man came in sight,
Gathering winter fuel.

"If only," thought Wenceslas, turning back to the room in time to catch a daughter-in-law asking her husband what the hell he meant by that. "If only . . ."

TONY McSWEENEY



IN THE ten years I was abroad representing *The Times*, from Russia to the Middle East, my wife and I learnt to rely on our own resources to entertain our (growing) family. Back in Britain, with the crackly but splendid BBC World Service a fading memory, it is tempting to revert to building Christmas around the television. Our three children (twin girls aged ten, and a boy of five) will also be glued to the Disney and Muppet videos.

But some flavour of the self-sufficient expatriate life lingers. Curiously, British expats tend to indulge in an exaggerated version of the (idealised) Christmas they think they remember at home. The amateur panto is produced with tremendous gusto: the tree is obtained by devious means from some local forest or other (in Moscow, payment by vodka usually does the trick); the Christmas pudding is ingeniously put together from local products.

In the same spirit we shall no doubt force the embarrassed and reluctant children to take part in the absurd games of charades we used to act out, complete with inspired fancy dress, in the homes of diplomats and fellow foreign correspondents in Moscow and Jerusalem. They seemed hilarious at the time. So too did the parlour games, such as The Winking Murderer (playing cards are distributed; whoever gets the joker is, unknown to the others, The Murderer; he or she "murders" others in the room by winking at them, until spotted). Another hit is Hi Harry, also known as One Spot (too complicated to explain here, but it involves a lipstick and deep concentration).

If charades and parlour games are greeted with groans, it doesn't take too much to persuade the children to put on a play, with much plundering of the dressing-up box (so that's where my Russian hat/Egyptian fez went), much whispering behind the scenes, and minor rows over the roles assigned.

There may also be cacophony from the family band, with dad on banjo-ukulele (abandoned during the years overseas, recently re-discovered and repaired). If all else fails (and it will, before Boxing Day), we shall either slump before the television set like everyone else or, better still, unwrap the board games and conjuring trick sets.

The travelling life has left the Owen girls with a passion for card games, and they will be happily bamboozling grandpa (no mean cardsharp) with their new box of tricks.

As for the parents, we shall open something rather different as the day lengthens and the log fire flickers: a bottle or two, with toasts to colleagues past and present. Foreign correspondents, after all, have a reputation to maintain.

RICHARD OWEN
Foreign editor

CHRISTMAS Day traditionally ends in children's tears. The trick is to postpone them. I take a team to the midnight carol service at the local kirk in darkest Ayrshire on Christmas Eve, to tire them out with Scots carols and a Presbyterian sermon. Fill fisherman's stockings, and so to bed.

Grown-ups get heads down, and hope nobody wakes before the rustling of paper and popping of crackers sets the dear little Jack Russells yapping at dawn. Long dog walk, to exhaust all, along the beach at the Maidens, maybe a dip in the rocky water slimy with seaweed. Small children, in a triumph of hope over excitement, kip in 50-year-old prams.

Episcopalian service for crib and locals. Visit to Coodham cemetery for long thoughts. Baps for lunch. More dog walk. Potato peeling, cleaning sprouts, cooking. By now tears somewhere, probably mine. Dinner. Hats. Give in and let them watch bloody telly.

PHILIP HOWARD
Leader writer

AND is it true, this most tremendous tale of all? Odd that children, unlike Betjeman, never ask. They may reject Santa Claus at seven, but the child in the manger (*pace* the Bishop of Durham) goes unchallenged.

To reinforce this rare belief we all went to Westminster Abbey on Christmas morning one year, but the little one's bladder was unequal to the event. Now we have a home mini-crib in which the infant Jesus miraculously appears.

Come the great day. Stockings are at 6am (sadly); Small Presents at 11am; Big Presents after lunch. At some stage there is compulsory singing around the piano, as a counter to their wrapping paper orgy and tree worship. I ban television, though the rest make moan like frosty winds.

Pre-Christmas, we never miss the Bach Choir's Albert Hall concert. The children are taken to the stage and led by Sir David Willcocks through carols and competitions. This year, our son won an illustrated *Messiah*. Tremendous.

PETER BROWN
Features production editor

TEN ways for parents to keep kids amused over Christmas. 1. Create atmosphere of general merriment while you put up fairy-lights by hammering nail through your thumb. 2. Approach building society for second mortgage. 3.Then enter toy store and ask price of video games. 4. Hire extra televisions to head off what UN peace-keeping forces would call "possible flash-points". 5. Accede to demands for Christmas Day to begin at 5am. 6. Wake at 4.30am to sound of breaking glass. Stumble downstairs, find kids admiring a remote-controlled robot as it blasts through the patio doors. 7. Lunchtime. The kids hate turkey, they tell you. They can't stand sprouts. Christmas pudding? Yuck. Engage in frank discussion about merits of dialling a pizza on Christmas Day. 8. Attempt to assemble model aeroplane from kit. Super-glue fingers to screwdriver. Spouse rips it away. Bleeding stops within hours. 9. Suggest nice, wholesome game of charades. "Get real," says five-year-old son contemptuously. 10. Repeat 1-9 ad lib until you can crawl back to work.

RICHARD MORRISON
Arts editor

> The kids hate turkey, they tell you. They can't stand sprouts. Christmas pudding? Yuck

I NEVER used to understand why people travelled with small children, given the obvious hell for them and others, and the fact that the dear things would be perfectly happy anywhere, and probably happiest at home. Now I realise working parents need a dose of daylight as much as anyone, and those who scarcely see their young except at weekends hardly want to leave them behind.

So, as one who used to queue-dodge furiously at airport check-ins to avoid being sat near anyone under 25, I expect this weekend to see swathes of Gatwick concourse empty miraculously before us, like the Red Sea, as we embark with family, aged one and nought, for Barbados.

The sun will probably shine. There will be a pool, a beach, limbo-dancing Father Christmases and steel band carols. Once they stop missing their nanny the children will probably think it's all right. But will it be a holiday, in the normal meaning of the word? There will be no Monday morning, this time, when the children are returned gratefully to nanny. When this Monday comes, we will be on our own.

Others will dine by candlelight to the sound of lapping waves. Some will doze on sunbeds by the pool. I will take an airport novel, for the hell of it, though I won't get past page ten.

If there is such a thing as a quiet moment, I will probably be too busy looking foward to the long flight home.

ROSE WILD
Personal finance editor

MY PERFECT WEEKEND

SANTA CLAUS

Worldwide gifts distributor



Santa (posed by a model) and one of his customers

Where would you go?
The snowy fells of Lapland, in the Arctic Circle. It is beautiful there. At this time of year it is light only for a few hours a day and the rest of the time there is a misty-blue darkness.

Where would you stay?
In the log cabin just outside the town of Rovaniemi, where I "work". Children visit me there all year round — except of course on December 25, when I travel the world delivering presents. My post office is also there. It's busy: this year I received 400,000 letters.

How would you get there?
By sledge from my secret home 125 miles away in Korvatunturi, which is near the Russian border. My wooden sledge is drawn by six reindeer and was made by my helpers, the elves. I tried to count them the other day and got up to 500 before they started running around the yard and I lost count.

Who would be your perfect companion?
A crowd of happy, laughing children.

What essential piece of clothing or kit would you take?
My warm winter jacket, my usual red hat and a sack full of toys.

What medicines would accompany you?
Joyful Christmas spirit.

What would you have to eat?
Finnish rice porridge, which is a traditional Christmas food and very like English rice pudding.

What would you have to drink?
Lots of fresh spring water drawn by the elves from the well next to my log cabin.

What would you read?
Christmas fairy tales.

What would you watch on television?
I don't have a television in my log cabin. Instead, I would look out on the panoramic view of snowy fells and a little frozen lake. The log cabin is in a lonely spot in the wilderness and I see all sorts of animals, including wolves and bears.

What music would you listen to?
"Jingle Bells" and carols.

Would you play any games or sport?
I'd make a snowman and dance around the Christmas tree with the children.

What piece of art would you like to look at?
The Christmas tree, and the ice flowers which form on the window pane when it is freezing outside.

What luxury would you take?
The warmth of love and goodwill to all.

Who would be your least welcome guest?
A cynic.

Which newspaper or journals would you read?
The Times, of course.

What would you leave behind?
My worries. I worry about the worries children have and write to me about, and the things that people do in this world — I don't understand them.

What three things would you most like to do?
1. Play with the children until they fall asleep. 2. Listen to the sounds of nature when night falls. 3. Light a fire in the fireplace.

Who would you send a postcard to?
All the children throughout the world.

What souvenir would you bring home?
A little branch from the Christmas tree and an empty sack.

What would you like to find when the weekend was over?
Lots of letters from children of every nation.

Interview by Rosanna Greenstreet

They are all coming for Christmas, the grandparents, the in-laws, aunts and uncles — even a few errant second cousins. A nightmare of noise and discord! How will you keep them quiet once the last crumb of mince pie has fallen on the dining-room carpet? Rush out today and buy a few last-minute books . . .



Derwent May's suggestions for Christmas book gifts

That rather snobbish aunt with less money than she pretends to will be delighted with *The Complete Book of Bedroom Elegance*, by Lady Caroline Wray (Ebury Press, £17.99). It looks like something to read in the four-poster but, in fact, it's a surreptitious do-it-yourself book.

The cousin who can't get over the fact that he grew up in the Glorious Sixties can have *The Rolling Stones: Street Fighting Years*, by Stephen Barnard (Studio Editions, £25). In the photographs here "we glimpse the unlovely and awkward suburban youths behind the glamorous rock icons", Robert Sandall said in *The Sunday Times*. Might give your cousin second thoughts at last.

For the brother who insisted on bringing the stinking mongrel that is now whining in the kitchen, there is *The Literary Companion to Dogs*, with all its extracts "sniffed out by Christopher Hawtree" (Sinclair-Stevenson, £25). "He seems to have found every worthwhile reference to dogs in Western civilisation," said Michael Shelden in *The Daily Telegraph*.

Give grandmother Celia Haddon's *Mischief and Delight: An Illustrated Anthology of Kittens* (Headline, £8.99), full of Victorian postcards of the little horrors.

Grandfather is always going on about his father's experiences in the first world war as though they were his own: stop the flow with two of the best novels of the year, Pat Barker's *The Eye in the Door* (Viking, £14.99), which re-creates the Britain of 1918, and Sebastian Faulks's *Birdsong* (Hutchinson, £14.99) which, Ruth Rendell said in *The Sunday Telegraph*, "soared to heights far above most first world war novels".

That youth who cannot get on with his dad: put to him the question, *When Did You Last See Your Father?*, the question Blake Morrison asked himself in his remarkable book about his Yorkshire childhood (Granta, £14.99).

Then there are those two neurotics who cannot stop thinking about food and drink, even at this moment of repletion. Give the drinker the leather-bound *Château Latour: The History of a Great Vineyard 1331-1992* (Segrave Foulkes). At £145, he might have preferred a case of claret — but, as Joanna Simon wrote in *The Sunday Times*, "Latour's archives are unique". The eater can have *Real Fast Puddings* by Nigel Slater (Joseph, £9.99) — and can go into the kitchen with the mongrel and make one.



For that serious and good-hearted cousin who cannot really relax even on Christmas afternoon, and whose thoughts keep turning to Northern Ireland, there is Robert Kee's life of Parnell, *The Laurel and the Ivy* (Hamish Hamilton, £20), which was picked out as a Christmas book by Patrick Leigh Fermor in *The Spectator*: "Long and scholarly biographies seldom grip the reader like a thriller," he wrote, "but this one does." The cousin might also like Roy Foster's collection of essays, *Paddy and Mr Punch: Connections in Irish and English History* (Allen Lane, £22.50). "Says many wise and important things about the bizarre encounter between these two cultures," David Cannadine noted in *The Observer*.

The sixth-former who wants to go to art school can ask a necessary question with *What is Art?* by Rosemary Davidson (Oxford, £12.99), illustrated even-handedly with old masters and computer art. Baby sibling can start catching up with Lucy Micklethwait's *A Child's Book of Art: Great Pictures, First Words* (Dorling Kindersley, £9.99), which introduces many simple words through great paintings.

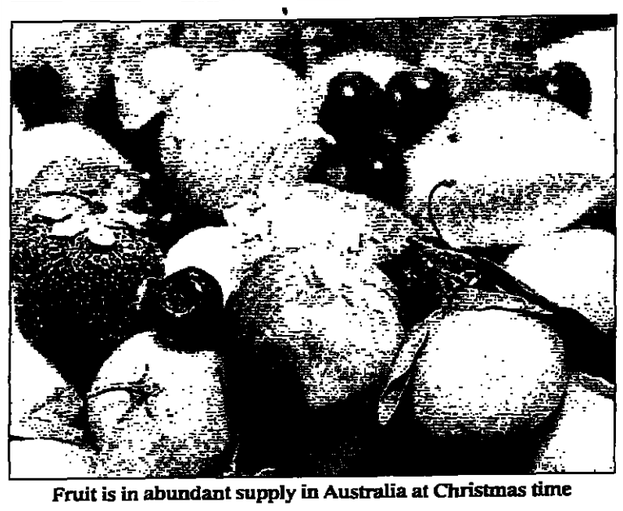
Be careful about buying Alan Clark's *Diaries* (Weidenfeld, £20). Whoever you give it to, everybody will want to start browsing in it, and hostilities will break out again.

Have on hand a copy of John Keegan's comprehensive *A History of Warfare* (Hutchinson, £20), and quote it loudly at them all. At least the family infighting might end up a little more skilled and civilised.

Lighting up the gum-tree

Christmas in Australia is an outdoor affair on a summer's day, **Fiona Beckett** reports

JULIAN HERBERT



Fruit is in abundant supply in Australia at Christmas time



Lacking a barbecue, Nicole Szabason prepares a prawn, mango and avocado salad in her kitchen

If Nicole Szabason were back home in Brisbane tomorrow lunch would be a barbecue on the beach. As on any other hot summer's day, there would be Moreton Bay bugs (similar to crayfish), barramundi (an exotic fish) and prawns, brightly coloured salads and bowls of fruit.

"Apart from opening up our presents, it didn't seem like Christmas," says Ms Szabason, a home-economist and food stylist preparing food for magazine photography. "It always seemed a bit of a farce putting lights on the gum-tree.

"Where I come from nobody cooks over Christmas because with temperatures up to 100F, it's far too hot."

When Ms Szabason first came to London seven years ago, she admits it was something of a culture shock. "This year is really the first time I've ever eaten hot meals regularly. I've always eaten salads every night. For years I just couldn't eat anything else."

Recreating an authentic Australian Christmas poses a problem as British December weather is hardly tailor-made for a barbecue. Ms Szabason has found she can improvise with the help of a ridged cast-iron grill. "The trick is to heat it until it is really searingly hot — at least ten minutes. I usually use a marinade, but otherwise you just brush the grill with a little oil before you put anything on it, or it will stick.

"I still like to do my mother's galantine of turkey. You stuff it with 2 or 3lb of chopped fresh fruit bound together with a few breadcrumbs and a tiny bit of pork mince and lots of fresh herbs. Back home we have so much fruit to choose from — mangoes, pawpaw, pineapple, redcurrants, strawberries, cherries (you must use whole cherries) and apricots — but you can use apples and oranges, or kumquats and even cranberries. It should be like a gigantic fruit salad with great big pieces of fruit you can bite into. Then you simply roll the whole thing up, tie it, roast it and leave it to get cold.

"I can't remember ever having a traditional Christmas pudding, but I like to do a classic, quick Australian dessert of chocolate biscuits dipped in rum, sandwiched together with strawberry jam and cream or mascarpone and frozen."

Prawn, mango and avocado salad

(serves 4-6)

30 raw king or tiger prawns

For the marinade

handful of chopped basil leaves
1 small, finely chopped red onion
4fl oz/110ml olive oil
2fl oz/55ml medium dry sherry
juice and zest of two limes
½ tsp grated fresh ginger
1 clove of garlic, crushed

For the salad

½ a large frisée lettuce
2oz/55g maché or lamb's lettuce
1 head of chicory
1 red pepper
1 yellow pepper
1 large ripe avocado
1 ripe mango

For the dressing

4fl oz/110ml olive oil
juice of a lime
2tsp sherry
½ tsp soy sauce
¼ tsp sesame oil
1 clove of garlic, crushed
½ tsp grated fresh ginger
¼ tsp black and white mustard seeds ground with a pestle and mortar

Mix the marinade ingredients together and marinate the prawns for at least two hours. Just before cooking the prawns, arrange the salad leaves in a large serving bowl, slice the peppers, avocado and mango thinly and add to the salad. Mix the salad dressing ingredients together. Meanwhile, heat a ridged cast-iron grill pan for 10 minutes over a high heat until smoking. Remove the prawns from the marinade and place them on the grill. Cook for a couple of minutes and then turn them over. Toss the salad in the dressing then add the hot prawns and serve.

Nicole's Christmas pudding

2oz/55g glacé cherries
2oz/55g shelled unsalted pistachio nuts
1oz/30g stem ginger
2 9oz/250g tubs of Italian mascarpone cheese
5fl oz/150ml dark rum
2 7oz/200g packs of round chocolate-chip cookies
12oz/340g jar of strawberry conserve

Chop the cherries, pistachio nuts and stem ginger and mix with the mascarpone and 2tbsp of rum. Pour the remainder of the rum into a shallow bowl and dip the biscuits in one by one until they are soaked through. (Don't leave them in too long or they will disintegrate.) Spread a biscuit with jam then mascarpone, then continue to stack them one on top of the other, layering the jam and mascarpone mixture in between. When you have finished, wrap the biscuit roll in non-stick baking parchment and foil, twisting the ends securely to fasten. Place the roll in the freezer and freeze thoroughly. Take the roll out and place it in the fridge 15-20 minutes before serving. Cut in thick diagonal slices so you can see the different layers — you can cut each slice into the shape of a Christmas tree with a metal cutter. Serve with a raspberry sauce made from sieved, liquidised frozen raspberries and icing sugar.

● *If you would like to know more about Australian food, you can contact Ms Szabason through Blues Agency (071-381 4747), which regularly has freelance Australian cooks on its books.*

DISH OF THE DAY

Chef: Tessa Bramley, 54.

Born: Sheffield.

Restaurant: Old Vicarage, Ridgeway Moor, Ridgeway, Derbyshire (0742 475814)

Present: In partnership with her son Andrew, who looks after the front of house.

Past: A former home-economics teacher, she opened her first bistro in Sheffield when she and her late husband decided to go into business on their own rather than move south for his job.

Future: "You can never stay set in your ways running a restaurant. Food is fashion, and people are looking for value for money, which does not necessarily mean cheap. We cannot lash caviare and *foie gras* over everything so we have to offer lots of skill, doing cooking that people cannot do at home to make them feel that it is money well spent."

Personal: "I am interested in country food of all kinds, using an eclectic mix of ingredients in old-fashioned ways to produce succulent results. One pork dish I am doing at the moment has pickled plums as the twist in the tail: it seems a very modern dish, but it is my grandmother's recipe."

Dishes (for a vegetarian Christmas): Home-made hazelnut tagliatelle with wild mushrooms and cashew nuts and a pear and watercress salad; leek and quail's egg tart glazed with gruyère, with a roasted stuffed red pepper topped with mozarella, spinach custard, and Tuscan flat bread.

ROBIN YOUNG



RESTAURANT WATCH

CHURCH MEALS

The Wren Café
35 Jermyn Street, London W1 (071-437 9419)
A joint enterprise between St James's, Piccadilly, and the charity Commonwork, the Wren Café is a vegetarian restaurant serving soups, quiches, bakes and pizzas. *Robin Young writes.* Open till 4pm today, and reopening on Wednesday. Closing again 4pm New Year's Eve, reopening Monday, January 3. Regular times are 8am-7pm Monday to Saturday and 9am-4pm on Sunday. Average spend: about £4.

The Almonry
Ely Cathedral, Ely, Cambridgeshire (0353 666360)
Ely's cathedral restaurant will close after lunch today until Wednesday, but stays open over the New Year. Regular hours are 10am-5pm Monday to Saturday and 11am-5pm on Sundays; also dinner for parties of 15 or more by arrangement.

The Cloisters Restaurant
Wells Cathedral, Wells, Somerset (0749 676543)
The Cloisters has already closed for Christmas and New Year but reopens on January 4, serving coffee and cakes in the morning and a daily changing menu of hot lunches, which cost about £6 a head. Open 10am-5pm Monday to Saturday and 2-5pm on Sundays.

Café in the Crypt
St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London WC2 (071-839 4342)
The café is open until 6pm tonight and reopens on Tuesday, serving sandwiches, tea and coffee only. On Wednesday it reverts to normal hours, 10am-8pm, and the regular menu (about £8 for a full meal). On New Year's Eve it will again close at 6pm, reopening on Sunday, January 2, for the regular Sunday hours, noon-6pm.

The Chapter House Refectory
Sumpter Yard, St Albans Cathedral, St Albans, Hertfordshire (0727 864208)
The refectory, which does a dish of the day, quiches, pizzas, salads and sandwiches, closes at 2.30 today but reopens on December 30. £5.50 for three courses. Open 10.30am-4.30pm Monday to Saturday, and 2.30-5pm on Sundays.

Panettone, the Italian version of Christmas cake, is a marketing success story dating from the 16th century

Festive bake inspired by love



Panettone, which many Italians eat after Christmas lunch

TALL, pyramid-shaped boxes of panettone, the Italian Christmas cake, are now a familiar sight not only in upmarket delicatessans but also in supermarkets. As with many other European culinary delights, there is a legend associated with the origins of the panettone.

The story has it that in the latter half of the 15th century, Ludovico il Moro presented the aristocratic family of Atelani with a house in Milan. An old baker called Toni had his premises nearby. In the best fairy-tale tradition, he had a beautiful daughter, Adalgisa, and one of the Atelani sons, Ughetto, fell madly in love with her.

Unable to live without his *bellissima*, Ughetto contrived to get himself hired as a messenger-boy in the bakery. Business was bad and Adalgisa was always sad, worried about her father's financial difficulties.

So Ughetto locked himself away in his family's ancestral library, consulted the dusty treatises and manuals and invented a new cake made of flour, butter, eggs, candied fruit, honey and yeast.

Poor Toni could not afford to buy the ingredients and Ughetto had to lend him the money. Toni then baked the cake and his customers found it delicious. Soon everyone wanted to buy the *pane di Toni* (Toni's cake).

Less romantic, but historical, details about this special cake date from the 16th century. The elegant and refined Caterina Medici married Henri II and became Queen of France. It appears that a *gâteau de Milan* was served as a dessert at Medici court luncheons.

Mention of a *pan di Natale* is to be found in a book published in 1761 by the Bolognese physician, Vincenzo Tanara. The Bolognese peasants of the time used to mix flour, honeyed water, yeast, raisins and chunks of candied pumpkin. By the 1890s panettones were being delivered by post during the Christmas period.

It is, however, in this century that panettone became a mass market product, popular all over Italy, thanks to two great characters and rivals, Angelo Motta and Gioacchino Alemagna. Motta, a master baker who set up his own business in 1919, changed the shape of the panettone, making it taller and more rounded, and added more raisins. He was very successful and by the early 1930s his business was operating on an industrial scale.

Gioacchino Alemagna, born in 1892 and, like Motta, of humble origins, set up a bakery in the centre of Milan that became a classic meeting place for the well-heeled. Competition between the two grew increasingly fierce. In 1976 the war of the panettone ended: Alegmagna was taken over by Motta. Today the main brands include Bauli, Fini and Balocco; also Le Tre Marie, which is faithful to the original shape.

There is no "best" way or set time to eat panettone, although many Italians serve it after the Christmas meal accompanied by a glass of Spumante.

JUDY ABRAHAMS

● *Panettone stockists include Lina Stores, 18 Brewer Street, London W1 (071-437 6482); Panzer's, 13-19 Circus Road, London NW8 (071-722 5162); branches of Sainsbury and Safeway nationwide.*

The Eastern spice of family life

Currying the leftover turkey? The spices might be from Lancashire

HOWARD BARLOW



Kirit and Meena Pathak with a selection of the products they supply to restaurants

If you go out for a curry tonight, chances are, you will eat one of Patak's products at some point. This Lancashire-based company supplies more than 90 per cent of Britain's Indian restaurants with pickles, paste, chutneys and sauces. Already a household name among Asian families, Patak's range is now being stocked by supermarkets. In a classic twist, Kirit and Meena Pathak, the energetic husband-and-wife team who run the family business, are planning to open a manufacturing base in India. Not so much coals to Newcastle as masalas to Madras.

Patak's success has sprung from a marriage of convenience with authenticity. Mrs Pathak says: "Asian women today haven't got the time, or often the right ingredients, to make traditional food. I grind my own spices from time to time, but I can't do it every day. Equally, I don't want to sacrifice taste or quality." In this, the philosophy of the business has changed little since 1956, when Kirit's father started to make samosas and barfi from the tiny kitchen of the flat the family lived in when they arrived, practically penniless, in London from the Gujerat.

Now a smartly suited international businessman, Mr Pathak has come a long way from the time he used to spoon pickles into a jar sitting on his mother's knee. "It was her idea to start making Indian snacks," he says. "Then dad went to the Indian Embassy and offered to cater for their functions. Business took off to such an extent, we were soon able to open a shop in Drummond Street."

Over the next decade, the family prospered until they hit treacherous financial waters and were nearly wiped out. Young Kirit was summoned back from his studies to help. Luckily, he took to the business like tikka to chicken, winning contracts to cater for the influx of Ugandan Asians then filling the transit camps.

Patak's began exporting when Indians living abroad wrote asking for parcel-post supplies. Today, more than 90 different lines are shipped worldwide.

Patak's factory, in Abram, near Wigan, Lancashire, merges with the surrounding grey, semi-industrial belt. Inside, piles of brick-red paprika lie alongside acid-yellow bags of turmeric, and mounds of shiny cumin seeds of incredible aroma and freshness from Iran. Here, in the midst of chip-butty land, lies all the treasure of the oriental spice merchant — garlic from China, ginger from South America, cardamom from Guatemala and chillies from their own farm in India.

The spices are cleaned, sifted, sorted, ground with Indian stone grinders, then blended and roasted to complex, multi-spice secret recipes within 48 hours of their arrival. It was Mr Pathak's father, Mr L.G. Pathak, who first developed the idea of preserving spices and herbs by encapsulating them in oil, but it was his daughter-in-law, coming from Bombay as a young bride in the 1970s with a degree in food technology, who realised there were gaps to explore in the Indian food market.

Mrs Pathak says: "I started messing around with spices and powders, and finally came up with a commercial tandoori paste. I'm happy to say it's still one of our best sellers. Several times a year, I go into the interior to research recipes. Indian food is evolving, as boundaries break down and people become more displaced.

"I have to admit we can never really replicate a dish cooked just minutes before it is served, but the people who buy our products know the overall flavour is never lost, because the stability of the spices is maintained."

Ironically, she feels she has more control over the end result in domestic, rather than professional, kitchens. "So many restaurants won't use the recipes we supply, chefs take short cuts, use poor meat or powders to which they add a little paste. When we go into a restaurant, I know we don't get the same food as served to white people."

Mr Pathak retains a traditional approach. "We might have automated production lines and a high-tech lab, but I still regard my tongue, nose and eyes as my real work tools."

It's a skill, as well as an attitude, he has inherited from his father who, although officially retired, remains active in the business. Mr Pathak says: "If it wasn't for him and my mother, and all their hard work, we wouldn't be here. This is our whole family history in a jar."

THIS rice dish from the Gujerat is accompanied by pickle and yoghurt.

Meena Pathak's palak and tamatar bhaat

(tomato and spinach rice — medium spiced)

(serves 4-6)

2 cups long grain Basmati rice
2 medium tomatoes
9oz/250g frozen spinach
3tbsp oil
1 medium sliced onion
3tbsp Patak's Biryani Paste
2 cups water

Wash rice. Soak for 20 mins and drain. Boil spinach and drain. Chop tomatoes. Heat oil in heavy saucepan and brown sliced onions. Add rice and sauté, folding to prevent sticking (approx 3-4 mins). Fold spinach, tomatoes and Biryani paste into rice. Add water and to the boil. Turn to low. Cover and cook for 20 mins. Gently stir. Cook uncovered for 5 mins. Serve hot.

CLARISSA HYMAN

● *Patak (Spices), Kiriana House, Haydock Lane, Haydock, Lancashire (0942 272300)*

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Treats for the seriously indulgent

Frances Bissell shares ideas for glamour dishes, using caviare champagne and oysters



The TIMES COOK

No more shopping days to Christmas, thank goodness: everything we cook now will be made with whatever is in the larder or refrigerator. Here are some ideas for easy canapés, starters and instant puddings, including a fool made with bananas, a Christmas pudding made with mincemeat, an ice-cream made with marzipan, and a jelly made with cream.

Three things are guaranteed to brighten up my Christmas: a case of vintage champagne (1983 Veuve Clicquot Grande Dame), a 500g tin of caviare and 100 fresh oysters. This might sound extravagant, but a little of each item will go a long way and add glamour to most holiday tables.

If the weather is reasonably cold, the oysters can be kept outside the back door in their box, covered with the damp seaweed in which they are usually packed. Serve them raw on the half shell for elegance, or potted with butter, mace and lemon juice for those who do not like their oysters *au naturel*. Serve them raw with small, grilled sausages Bordelais-style, bake them in hollowed-out potatoes, or barbecue them.

Oysters are versatile, and I have included a more unusual récipe for them. Or, you might consider adding a few to the turkey stuffing, a favourite old English recipe.

The large tin of caviare does not need to be consumed at once. Transfer it to a glass bowl, cover with food wrap, not touching the caviare, and refrigerate. It will keep for three or four days. Over the holidays, I serve it with blinis and melted butter, or spooned over fresh tagliatelle which has been tossed in cream and butter. At the Mandarin Oriental hotel in Hong Kong, where I got the idea, they add vodka to the cream and butter.

Caviare also makes a good topping for baked potatoes. Boiled eggs, chopped and mixed with chervil and butter or sour cream, heaped on rounds of buttered bread and topped with a few grains of caviare, make excellent canapés, as do hard-boiled quail eggs topped with it.

It took me a long time to come round to agreeing that caviare is a good ingredient for other dishes, and not just an expensive afterthought. I changed my mind after tasting one of Michel Lorain's caviare creations — a small fillet of lightly smoked sea bass served in a pool of delicate sauce flavoured with grains of *Sevruga* — at Le Meridien hotel in London, and a tuna tartar topped with caviare and the caviare tagliatelle at the Mandarin Oriental.

The canapé recipes that follow will not break the bank, and the first one can be adapted to a number of ideas.

Cream cheese with toasted nuts and seeds

Toast equal quantities of shelled pumpkin seeds, shelled sunflower seeds and flaked almonds with half quantities of flaked hazelnuts and whole pinenuts. Fold into seasoned cream cheese or *fromage frais* and serve on rounds of pumpernickel. The filling can also be served in chicory leaves, fennel, celery or radicchio.

Melon and Parma ham parcels

These are a small squares of melon wrapped in Parma ham and tied parcel-fashion with chives or strips of blanched leek. Or fill the parcels with cream cheese mixtures.

Smoked salmon parcels

Squares of thinly sliced smoked salmon folded around cream cheese and toasted seed mixture, as described above, and tied with chives or leek.

Miniature steak tartar

Finely chopped lean steak mixed with shallots, parsley, salt, pepper, hint of Worcestershire sauce, even less tabasco, served on crisp pastry round, toast or in a porcelain Chinese soup spoon; garnish with chopped caper or grated horseradish. Miniature salmon tartar can be made in the same way, but using grated ginger, chopped spring onions, chopped coriander leaves, soy sauce and toasted sesame oil for the flavourings.

Miniature Scotch eggs

Use quail eggs and best quality pork sausages. Hold the sausages under the cold tap for a minute or two, slit the skin and the meat comes out easily. Prepare and cook as for Scotch eggs. Serve halved.

Oysters with sauerkraut and champagne

(serves 4-6)

¾lb/340g prepared sauerkraut
¼pt/140ml double cream
¼pt/140ml champagne
2 finely chopped shallots
1 bay leaf
2 dozen oysters
salt, pepper to taste
chervil, chives or parsley for garnish

Drain the sauerkraut and set it to heat gently in a saucepan. In another saucepan, cook the cream, champagne, shallots and bay leaf until reduced by half. Carefully open the oysters and strain the liquid into the champagne sauce, which should be reduced to get a good coating consistency. Season to taste. Remove the bay leaf and divide the sauerkraut between the oyster shells or shallow, buttered oven-proof dishes. Arrange oysters on top and cover with the sauce. Flash under a hot grill until the sauce just turns colour. Serve immediately with herbs for garnish.

ONE of the wonders of the Piemontese kitchen in northwest Italy is *panna cotta*, a jellied, moulded cream. Most recipes tell you to use four sheets or four teaspoons of gelatine for a pint of liquid. Some cooks use just one leaf of gelatine for six puddings, each serving six people. I have used half quantities of gelatine, but it is somewhat nerve-racking. Will it turn out of the mould, or will it fall out into a heap?

Use an old-fashioned fancy jelly mould or a ring mould, and first swirl a little caramel around it if you like. It is important that the sugar is cooked long enough to get a good colour and the flavour of real caramel, but be careful, as it is easy to burn. Leave it out rather than use an undercooked caramel, which will just produce a pale and insipid liquid.

DIANA LEADBETTER



Panna cotta

(serves 6)

2-2½ sheets gelatine
¾pt/430ml double cream
¼pt/140ml single cream or full-cream milk
1dstsp caster sugar (optional)

Soften the gelatine in a little water and drain. Heat cream, and milk if you are using it, to blood heat and add the sugar and drained gelatine. Stir until both have dissolved and allow to cool. Before the mixture begins to set, pour it into a caramel-lined or wetted jelly mould. Refrigerate overnight. Loosen the jelly by warming the mould with a hot cloth and ease it out on to a shallow dish.

The next recipe is best served warm and lightly dusted with icing sugar. Cream, ice-cream, *crème fraiche*, yoghurt or brandy butter can be served with it.

Hasty Christmas pudding

(serves 4)

2oz/60g plain flour
2 free-range eggs
scant ½pt/280ml full-cream milk
1oz/30g sugar
2oz/60g butter
2oz/60g fresh breadcrumbs
5oz/140g rich mincemeat

Make a batter of the flour, eggs, milk and sugar. Beat until smooth and stand for half an hour or so. Melt half the butter in a pan and fry the breadcrumbs until golden. With the rest of the butter, liberally butter a 7-8in diameter baking dish and scatter the breadcrumbs over the top. Using a teaspoon, dot small heaps of mincemeat over the baking dish and pour on the batter. Bake towards the top of a hot oven at 200C/400F, gas mark 6, for 40 minutes.

Banana and cardamom fool

For each serving, use one ripe banana, the seeds of a couple of cardamom pods, honey or sugar to taste, a little fresh lemon or orange juice, all blended until smooth. Fold in one heaped tablespoon of Greek yoghurt or *crème fraiche* for each serving. Serve in chilled glasses. It makes good ice-cream, too, as does the next recipe.

Christmas ice-cream

(serves 6-8)

1pt/570ml double cream
½lb/230g white marzipan, chopped or broken into pieces
6oz/170g good quality crystallised fruit, finely chopped
3oz/85g flaked almonds, lightly toasted

Scald double cream and pour it over the marzipan in a bowl. Stir until almost blended, leaving some pieces of marzipan for texture. Stir in the fruit and nuts and freeze mixture. Soften before serving.

ENTERTAINING AT HOME: Robert Budwig

Street market to fine spread

For me, entertaining is like painting: I work with a palette of colour, as well as different tastes. As a designer, illustrator and writer of cookery books, creating a meal for friends lets me indulge all my passions at once. I love to work with vegetables and fruits for their bold colours. I feel that eating mostly vegetables makes me healthier.

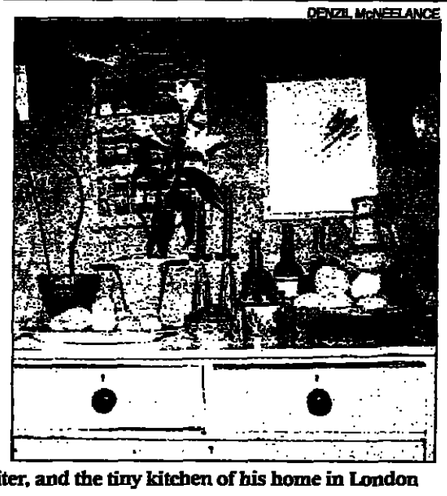
If I'm having friends over for Saturday dinner or Sunday lunch, the weekend begins in Portobello Market, west London, where I search for what's in season, and focus the meal around that. If I see baby leeks, they're the inspiration for leeks vinaigrette or a leek stir-fry. My favourite market trader, Bernie (near Tesco), might have some fresh mushrooms and that'll be the trigger for a mushroom risotto. I prefer not to plan the meal until I've seen what's freshest, rather than go out with a shopping list. I buy my fresh flowers — something exotic such as strelitzia or sunflowers — from a stall.

My love affair with the markets began in Colombia, to which my parents emigrated from Germany before the Second World War. I remember the street markets being drenched with colour.

Cooking is in my blood; my grandmother ran a *pension* in Colombia, serving meals to German emigrés, and later became a caterer. I don't entertain on a grand scale; I can squeeze six into my kitchen, or we eat in the drawing-room, where I turn my desk into a dinner table for up to ten. In summer, I drape a piece of fabric over a couple of clotheslines in the garden, and create a Bedouin-style tent, with cushions heaped on the ground. Meals are invariably served on mismatched china, with clashing patterns and colours — bowls from Morocco or Spain, orphaned plates from Portobello — and I have loads of candles in bold colours. In the past, I've created crockery ranges for homeware companies, so we might eat something off a plate I've designed. Napkins will be bright, perhaps a different colour for each person, with a decoration of a single leaf from the garden, or a sweet-sharp Cape gooseberry people can eat before the meal.

I might go to the Thai supermarket for banana leaves as a backdrop for food, or put a pile of baby mangoes on the cloth, to suggest India. I like a meal to be a feast for the eyes, and I'll often illustrate the menu. If it's a meal with the flavours of a country such as Morocco or India, I'll have that country's music playing.





DENZIL McNEELANCE

Robert Budwig, the artist and cookery book writer, and the tiny kitchen of his home in London

I like to keep the meal simple — a few dishes, prepared in advance — otherwise you have to concentrate on cooking, rather than conversation. We often begin with a glass of Muscat before we eat, and I might serve ice-cold beer with the meal because spices can overwhelm wine. My favourite pudding is tiramisu, but I'm just as likely to serve ripe mangoes or fresh apples.

I like to do things simply and easily, and if that means cooking one main dish and buying the first course from a delicatessen, I don't think that's anything to worry about. Better that way than not entertain at all just because you're too pushed for time to create anything elaborate.

The food I serve is influenced by my travels. For my latest book, I visited the markets of Italy, France, Morocco, Thailand, Central America and California, and each had an impact on my style of entertaining, and my menus. I like every meal to be a surprise for my friends.

Aubergines with *mint*

(serves 4-6)

2 large aubergines
5tbsp olive oil
2tbsp white wine vinegar
2 cloves garlic, crushed
salt and freshly ground black pepper
24 fresh mint leaves

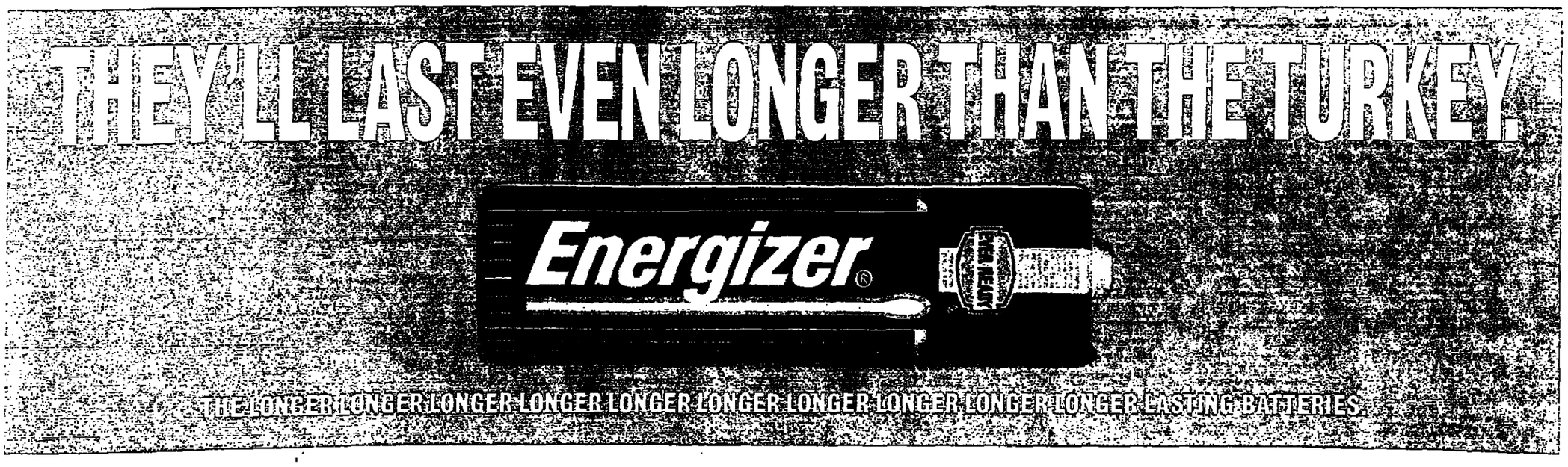
Wash the aubergines and remove the stems. Slice thinly across, sprinkle generously with salt, put in a colander or sieve and leave for 30 minutes to drain.

Meanwhile, prepare the marinade. Mix three tablespoons of the oil, vinegar, garlic, most of the mint (save a few leaves for garnish) and a little salt and pepper to taste together in a small bowl. Rinse aubergines well and pat dry with a tea towel or paper towel. Heat two tablespoons of the oil and fry the aubergines until golden. Arrange on a serving dish; pour the marinade over and chill in the refrigerator overnight.

To serve, sprinkle with the rest of the mint leaves.

JOSEPHINE FAIRLEY

● The Vegetable Market Cookbook, *by Robert Budwig (Rosendale Press, £14.95).*



Champagne to make a party fizz



WITH friends and family descending in thirsty hoards over Christmas and New Year, entertain them with one of the top seasonal sparklers, at prices to suit everyone.

CHEAP FIZZ

Marquis de La Tour Brut, Vin Mousseux (France):
The Victoria Wine Company and Augustus Barnett, down 50p to £3.49 until Jan 5.
Made by the bulk cuve close, or tank, method this humble French vin mousseux is produced by the Loire's quality minded producers Ackerman-Laurance. It's waxy, marzipan-scented fruit, coupled with the Loire's leafy freshness, makes this suitable for those on a tight budget.

Marquis de La Tour, Demi-Sec, Vin Mousseux:
Victoria Wine and Augustus Barnett, down 50p to £3.49 until Jan 5.
Almost identical to the wine above but softer and seemingly richer in style, because of its extra touch of sweetness. Technically, demi-sec means half-dry but most palates will rate this sparkler as medium-dry; a festive style that can be surprisingly comforting in cold weather.

Moscato del Piemonte, Santero (Italy):
Sainsbury's and Victoria Wine £1.99.
So cheap, it makes you wonder what the catch is. Relax, there isn't one. Just relish the softly sweet, grapey, musky flavours of this semi-sparkling Moscato whose helpfully low five per cent alcohol level is especially useful for those who are watching their intake. Serve this Moscato, too, at festive teenage parties, cut with juice for a sophisticated-looking but relatively innocuous concoction. Victoria Wine's Ca Bauda version, despite its different label, is the same wine.

Lonsdale Ridge Brut Reservé, non-vintage, (Australia):
Bibendum, 113 Regent's Park Road, London NW1, reduced by 51p to £4.99 until Dec 31.
Bibendum has dubbed this Australia's greatest value sparkling wine, which is no doubt an exaggeration. But Lonsdale's elegant, creamy, lemony fruit, backed up by pineapples and flowers, is well ahead of its rivals. Some may find its vibrant lemony style too much.

SUPERIOR FIZZ

Killawarra Brut, Sparkling Wine (Australia):
Davisons £4.99, reduced by 26p until Jan 1.
One notch up in quality from the previous fizz, this sparkler is guaranteed to leave your guests with clear heads and you with party money to spare. Made by Penfolds, its citrussy fruit, backed by a biscuity finish, tastes more expensive than its price tag.

Killawarra Rosé, Sparkling Wine (Australia):
Davisons £4.99, reduced by 26p until Jan 1.
Pink fizz is traditionally more a summer tipple than a Christmas wine, yet rosy glasses do look special and go down well at festive events. Crisp, clean and strawberry scented, Killawarra's orangey-pink colour should pop up at parties everywhere.

Cava Brut, M Sancho e Hijas (Spain):
Sainsbury's down 50p to £4.49 until Jan 3.
Lots of shops stock good, own-labelled Spanish Cava wine made by the méthode-champenoise, but Sainsbury's is the best. What I like most about this Mont Marcal produced version is its classy, restrained flowery scent and taste. Just the bubbly to serve old-world, wine-only friends.

Le Grand Pavillon de Boschendal, Blanc de Blancs (South Africa):
Safeway, down 50p to £5.99 until Jan 1; London Wine Emporium, 86 Goding Street, SW11, £6.49.
This new classy bubbly makes an unusual Christmas aperitif. Its fresh, flowery citrussy fruit is made by the méthode-champenoise for a rare blend of predominantly chardonnay with a dollop each of crouchen and semillon.

CHAMPAGNE TASTE-ALIKE

1990 Green Point Vineyard Brut (Australia):
Waitrose, Sainsbury's and Davisons £9.95; Victoria Wine, Augustus Barnett, Majestic and Oddbins £9.99; Adnams, High Street, Southwold, Suffolk, £10.60.
Australia's Yarra Valley, Green Point's home, may not be the ideal sparkling wine vineyard spot, but Moët et Chandon's Australian's HQ has produced a masterly méthode-champenoise fizz whose perfumed, elegant chardonnay-dominated style makes an ideal Christmas aperitif, or accompaniment for first courses, such as smoked salmon.

1990 Croser Brut, (Australia):
Oddbins £10.49 (seven bottles for the price of six (£8.99).
Croser's delicious, creamy rich yet floral style, with a toasted brioche-like finish, is a festive food fizz if ever there was one; proof again, too, that the gap between first division New-World méthode-champenoise sparklers and the cheaper champagne is closing fast. South Australia's much heralded Petaluma winery is run by Brian Croser and part-owned by Bollinger.

1989 Crémant de Bourgogne, Cave de Viré, (France):
Tesco £6.99.
Tesco obviously snapped up a large allocation of this first class burgundy-bubbly that is every bit as good now, as it was in the summer. Totally chardonnay-based, Crémant de Bourgogne is rare but definitely the best the region produces, as its full, rich, tasty, greeny gold fizz, coupled with the chardonnay grape's long-lemony fruit flavours, demonstrate.

1988 Argyle Pinot Noir Chardonnay (USA):
Oddbins £9.99 (£8.56 if you buy seven bottles for the price of six).
Oregon is the place for top-drawer American sparklers, as this toasty, smoky bacon-like pinot noir-dominant, méthode-champenoise fizz proves. Underpinned by the chardonnay grape and given about four years aging, Argyle is a classic new world sparkler that has already frightened the French and is yet another sparkling wine success story from Brian Croser, who founded the Argyle company in 1987.

CHAMPAGNE

Sainsbury's Extra Dry Champagne, Duval-Leroy, (France):
Down £2 to £9.95 until Jan 3.
This season's best cut-price high-street champagne by far: a fine, flowery, chardonnay-dominated champagne from Duval-Leroy founded in 1859.

Albert Beerens Brut Reservé Champagne (France)
Bibendum, 113 Regent's Park Road, NW1, down £1.76 to £11.99 until Dec 31.
A little-known champagne name from the outlying Aube district of Champagne. Most Aube champagnes are pinot-meunier based, but M Beerens sells his meunier grapes on to Mumm, which explains why this glorious, musky champagne with rich, toasty fruit on the finish, made exclusively from pinot noir and chardonnay, is so good.

Waitrose Champagne, Blanc de Noirs (France):
Down 80p to £10.95 (12 for the price of 11 at £10.03).
Extraordinarily powerful, stylish and full-bodied own-label non-vintage champagne with robust character. Too hefty for some palates, perhaps, but the fine, ripe, musky, pinot noir fruit makes it the ideal food fizz.

Brusson Père & Fils Champagne (France):
Thomas Peatling, Westgate House, Westgate Street, Bury St Edmunds, £12.99 (two or more bottles £11.49 each), and at 63a Clerkenwell Road, EC1.
Yet another little-known star non-vintage champagne from an East-Anglia based wine merchant chain owned by Greene King, the brewer. A rich, fruity, biscuity Brusson champagne from Epernay.

BIG-NAME CHAMPAGNE

Krug Grande Cuvée, (France):
Oddbins £59.75 (£51.21 if you buy seven bottles for the price of six). Victoria Wine £56.59. Adnams £58.85, Wine Rack and Bottoms Up £59.50 (half bottles £29.75).
The biggest champagne name of all. Champagne competitors are no doubt furious that Krug, even in difficult trading times, continues to get away with its stratospheric prices and cheeky "every wine we make is a prestige cuvée" profile. Savour festive glasses of seductive, biscuity, hazelnut scented Grande Cuvée.

1985 Dom Pérignon, (France):
Oddbins £56.25. (£48.21 if you buy seven bottles for the price of six), Bibendum £53, Majestic £59.99, Victoria Wine £52.28 (seven for the price of six), Thresher, Wine Rack and Bottoms Up £55.95, Thomas Peatling £55.
Moët et Chandon is the world's biggest selling champagne and Dom Pérignon is its flagship. This rich, fruity wine with its complex, perfumed biscuity-smokey flavour is the one for New Year's Eve if there are just two of you.

Laurent Perrier Brut (France):
Majestic, £33.98 a magnum (£28.03 if you buy six), Oddbins £16.99 a bottle (£14.02 for 12), Bibendum £32.95 a magnum, £16.50 bottle, Thomas Peatling a bottle £17.49 (two at £14.99 each), Davisons £16.99 a bottle (until Jan 1), Thresher, Wine Rack and Bottoms Up £35.70 a magnum, £16.99 a bottle.
Big bottles of champagne look especially impressive on the festive table and Laurent Perrier's fresh, fruity bubbly gets my vote. Despite cut-price competition, LP's depth of fruit and biscuity finish makes it best value for non-vintage, big-name champagne.

1986 Victoria Wine Champagne (France):
Victoria Wine down £3 to £15.59 until Jan 5.
Best value vintage champagne in the high street. Its musky, toasted brioche flavour will do justice to any celebration.

WHISKIES OF THE WORLD

Scotch, Irish or Bourbon - what's your pleasure?

ENJOY A TASTE WITH THE TIMES

Could it be Aberlour - a classic Speyside single malt from the Highlands? Or might you well warm to the magical mysteries of whiskey with an 'e' - a Jameson Irish?

Then again, perhaps Wild Turkey, a genuine Kentucky bourbon, will hit the right spot... it's all a question of taste.

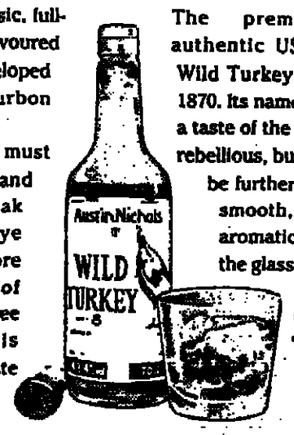
Cut out this coupon and send it together with your three tokens and a complimentary taste of Aberlour, Jameson or Wild Turkey will be with you in the New Year.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: 1. Offer is open to UK residents aged 18 or over. 2. Only one application per household. 3. Applications only valid if made on official application forms printed in The Times on Friday 31st December 1993, fully and correctly completed and accompanied by the 3 tokens. 4. No responsibility can be accepted for applications lost, damaged or delayed in the post. 5. Applications must be received by Friday 7th January 1994. 6. Applications should be sent to Caroline Davey, Marketing Department, Campbell Distillers, Period House, 924 Great West Road, Middlesex TW8 9DY. 7. Offer is subject to availability. 8. Please allow 28 days for delivery.

SERVE YOUR BOURBON WILD

Bourbon is the classic, full-bodied, mellow-flavoured American whisky developed 200 years ago in Bourbon County, Kentucky.

Genuine bourbon must be made from corn, and aged in charred oak barrels – unlike Rye Whisky which has more rye and a hint of bitterness, or Tennessee Whisky which is charcoal-filtered to taste lighter and smokier.



The premium brand, authentic US bourbon, is Wild Turkey, first made in 1870. Its name might suggest a taste of the raw, rough and rebellious, but nothing could be further from the truly smooth, full-flavoured, aromatic experience in the glass.

Best Served undisguised 'on the rocks'.

WHISKIES OF THE WORLD 3 TOKEN THE TIMES

Name_____

Address_____

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Tick your selection below (one only)
☐ Aberlour ☐ Jameson
☐ Wild Turkey

Then cut the coupon and send it with your three tokens to Caroline Davey, Marketing Department, Campbell Distillers, Period House, 924 Great West Road Middlesex TW8 9DY.

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Weekend has commissioned a children's carol from poet **George Mackay Brown** and composer **Sir Peter Maxwell Davies**

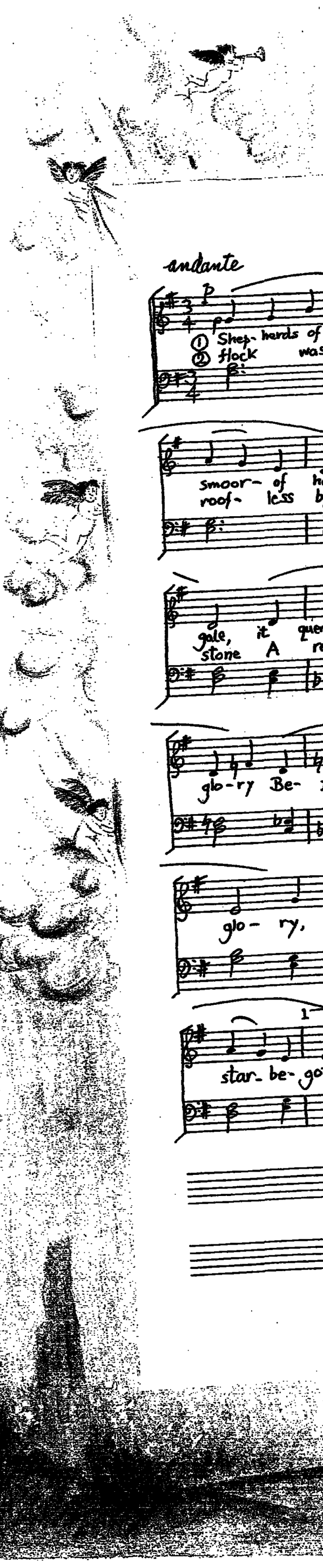
Shepherds of Hoy
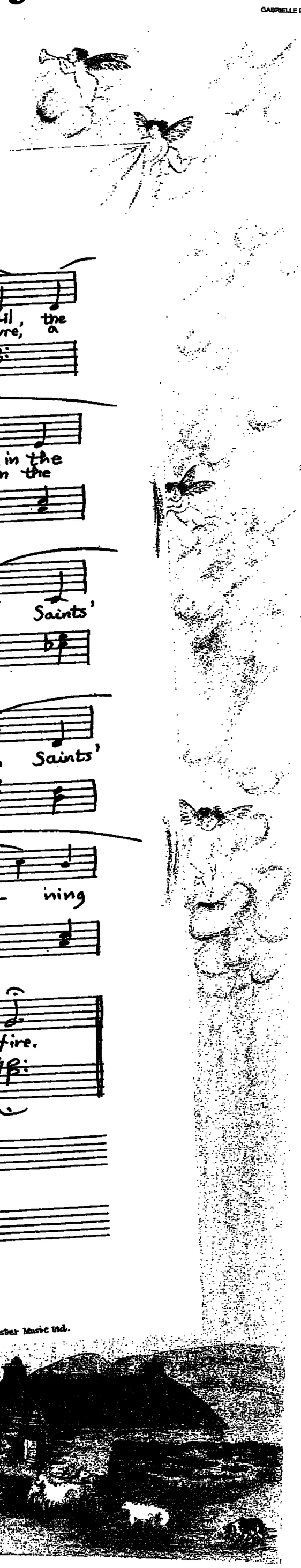
Shepherds of Hoy, what did you see
Through the smoor of hail?
There were no stars — our lantern
Quenched in the gale.
In Saints' glory
Before the morning star begotten.
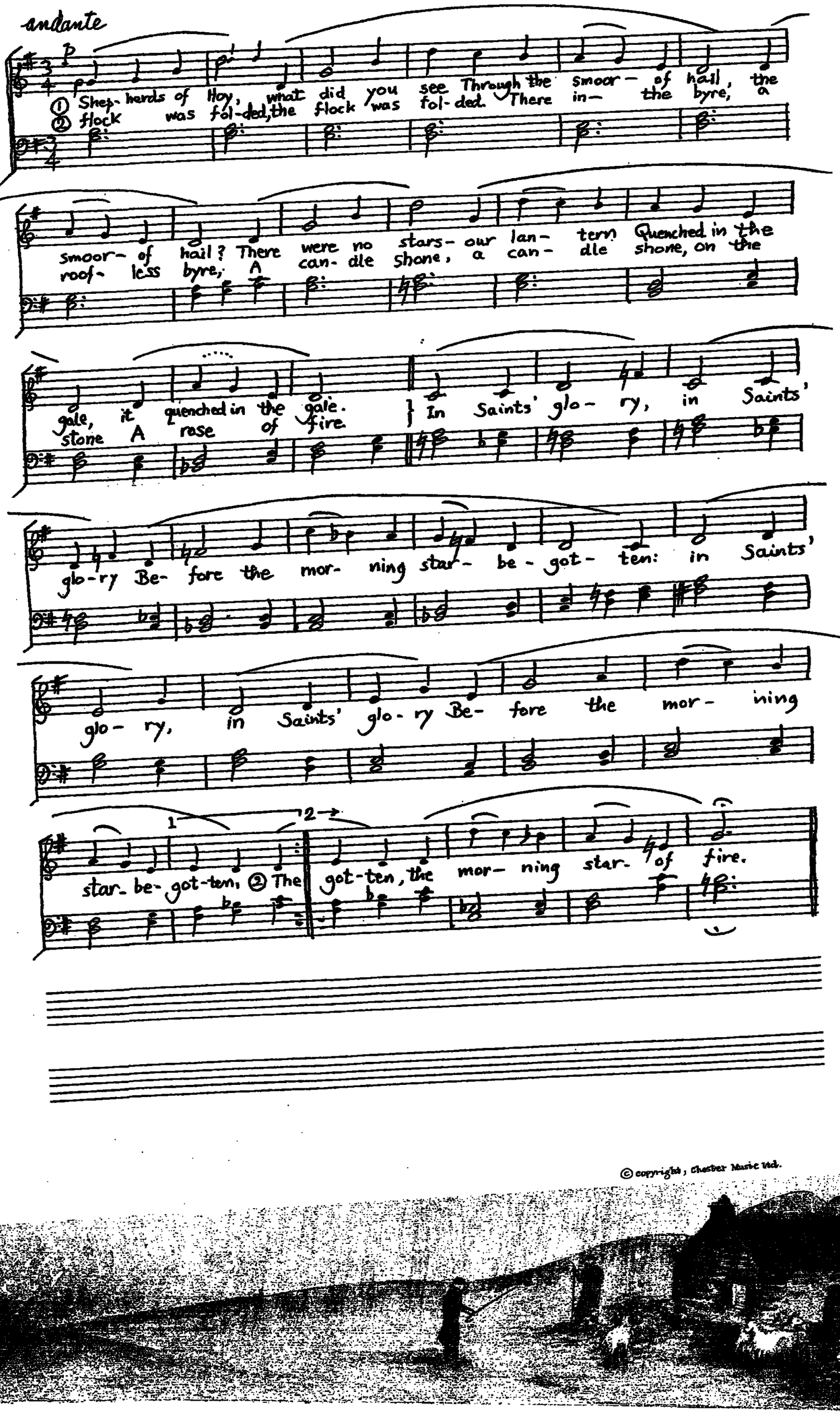
The flock was folded. There
In a roofless byre
A candle shone, on the stone
A rose of fire.
In Saints' glory
Before the morning star begotten.

© George Mackay Brown

GABRIELLE IZEN







© copyright, Chester Music Ltd.

Nigel Rees sets a brain-teaser to shake up your brain cells tomorrow after the presents, the turkey and the Queen:

Quiz quotes

PICTURE QUOTES

Each of the following remarks was made during 1993 by one of the people pictured. Pair the quote with the actual speaker.

1 *"I am very, very gobsmacked."*

2 *"I'm very, very critical of myself."*

3 *"I apologise for any inconvenience that I have caused to my fans."*

4 *"I am fit, I am well, I am here — and I'm staying."*

5 *"Up to this juncture, my life was empty and without meaning. Now I can face the future."*

6 *"There will be a turning point. I don't know what and I don't know when, but something will happen."*



A big hand for our panto cast: from left, Graham Taylor, Jeremy Paxman, Emma Thompson, Michael Jackson, the Duchess of York, John Major

The Times Prize Jumbo Crossword

ACROSS

1 Flier landed at Christmas, setting off alarm (3,5,2,3,4,4,4)
15 Apes come round bearing fruit (7)
16 Partner at fault taking in other partners, it's clear (11)
17 About 100 go to a resort — new figure in plane (7)
18 Piece of music that's played on board (9)
19 Involve them briefly with cook (7)
20 Pay formula man on board has to assess (5-4)
21 Stepped back to go round person sleeping (7)
23 Author's naive pronouncement (6)
24 A train has crashed in European capital (6)
26 Rumour I'd not spread (2,3)
28 Some discount I expected — this is free (5)
29 Direction carriage follows in old section of capital (4,6)
31 Change in coat accomplished, creating possibility of suit (10)
34 Request for first-class fare on Boxing day (5,2,5,3,5,2,4)
39 Was idle, so suddenly had a strike about nothing (7)
41 Make a casual appearance to issue a reprimand (5,4)
43 Not a revolutionary — curbs reform introduced (9)
45 Odd reversal of routine in annual review (9)
46 Asp? (4-5)
47 Spectacles, in part, cut short (7)
48 Singular reason for annual celebration (9,5,3,4,1,4)
53 Timid creature found, thanks to one wearing military badge (10)
55 One projectile follows many others in game (6-4)
57 Sort of Jew Arabs might adjust to (5)
59 Razorbill's birthplace (5)
61 Fungus in jam — send it back (3-3)
62 Line I put round pine tree (6)
64 It's a blessing wild animals passed round 7 (7)
66 Political opponent sorted out Liberal, almost (9)
68 Weapon old copper was struck with (7)
69 Abstemious employee, for a while an abnormal eater (9)
71 Hurried back with standard, to tell what happened (7)
72 Subjugating some beaten Slav 'e mentioned (11)
73 Facility mostly used by fit characters (3-4)
74 A voluntary contribution, perhaps, from Carol (3,7,2,3,5,5)

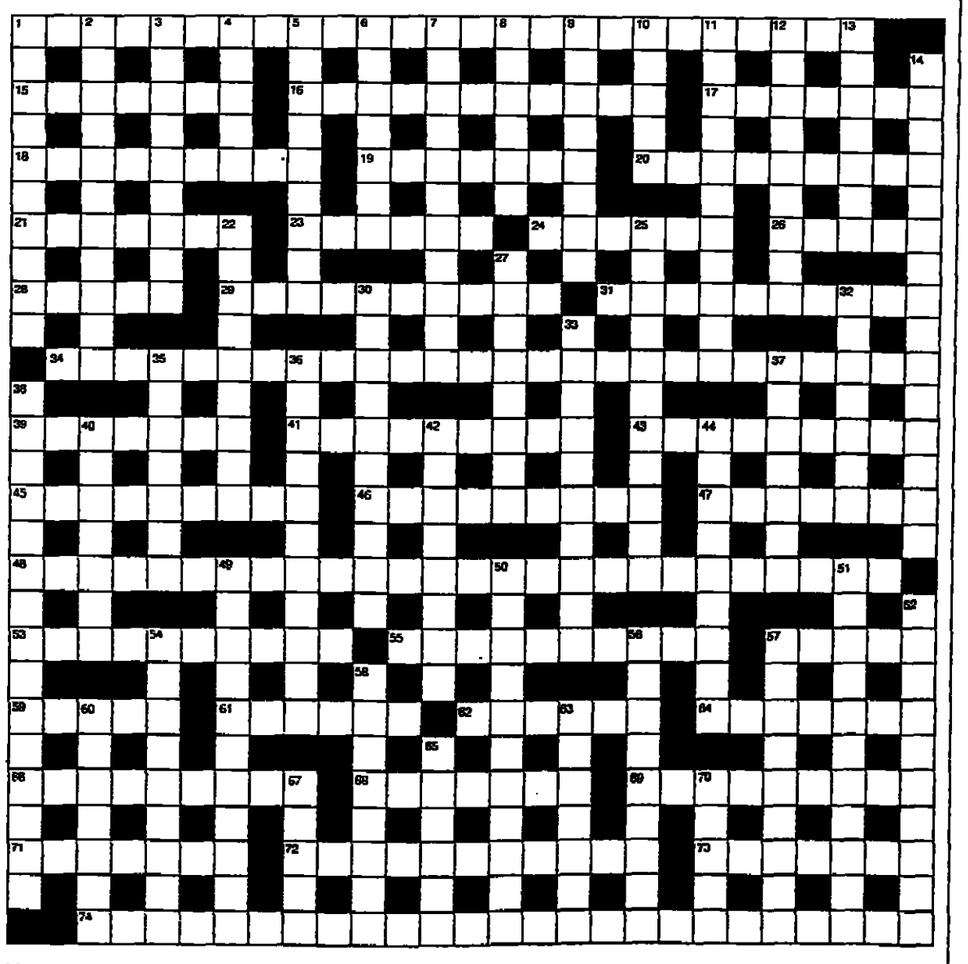
DOWN

1 A lot of bother with a gloomy poet (10)
2 He overassesses a tax King George collected (11)
3 Clear bargain (9)
4 Moderate Liberal's support for oil (5)
5 Exerts more influence in striking fashions, say (9)
6 Repeat broadcast about last character in swinging bar (7)
7 Direction Rugbeian's given by PM (4-2-5)
8 He speaks formally before church court rises (6)
9 Elaborate and secret plan incomplete — one gets caught in the act (4-4)
10 Misbehave as child — that upsets parents initially (3,2)
11 Acquitting former sailor I formally detained (11)
12 When not to change after entertainment (2,3,4)
13 Carriage and trap overturned near individual (7)
14 Article concealed twice in lingerie? Not very well (5,3,7)
22 A lot of bother mid 'orrific month of revolution (9)
25 Freezing water makes car on ice act erratically (6,5)
27 Like wood left on top of fire (8)
30 Old article included in bill's first reading is special choice of MP (2-8)
32 Put in American prison along with bandit . . . (7)
33 . . . but Lady Ann is reformed fully (10)
35 Refutes part of submission e.g. a testimony (7)
36 Tinker with a mast in the bow (11)
37 Royal attendant initially evades question about queen (7)
38 Could slightly disorganized flier touch down in this fantastic place? (5-6-4)
40 Cause to become frightened, perhaps, or even run off (7)
42 Half complete sketch to reveal outline (8)
44 Criticize offensive striker, and benefit society (5-4)
49 Mother put on trial about row involving female relatives (11)
50 Fighter reeling all over the place, caught by blow (11)
51 Waylaying a vehicle with scoundrel in China (11)
52 Fish not turning up in Tasmanian port (10)
54 Sauce and meat in roll — see 'em tucking in (9)
56 Logical expert redesigned totaliser (9)
57 The last thing a heretic was likely to assume (9)
58 Weapon that's two-sided — or the opposite? (8)
60 It could include nude in naughty act (7)
63 Musical I pronounced a gem (4-3)
65 Stars clustered round a formidable female (6)
67 Time, as they say, in the opposition (5)
70 A contribution from whom is erroneously sought? (5)

TEST YOUR WORD POWER IN OUR CROSSWORD COMPETITION

Prizes of £50 will be given for the first five correct solutions opened on Monday, January 10, 1994.

Entries should be sent to Christmas Jumbo Crossword, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The winner and solution will appear on Saturday, January 15, 1994



NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

..... POSTCODE .....

Christmas Holiday Concise Crossword

There are no prizes for this crossword. The answers will be published on Monday.

ACROSS

1 Sabbath group (5,3,10,7)
15 Passed on (7)
16 Improvise (11)
17 Kenya capital (7)
18 Lenses (9)
19 Oxygen dependent (7)
20 Regard oneself moneyless (4,5)
21 Become popular (5,2)
23 Implant (7)
24 Ancient documents (7)
26 Useful resource (5)
28 Tall and thin (5)
29 Readily compliant (7,3)
31 Complete gaiety (3,4,3)
34 Recce by Western Desert force (4,5,6,5,6)
39 Mixture (7)
41 Pass half century (4,5)
43 Following plan (2,7)
45 Oral (9)
46 Tangible matter (9)
47 Swallows rapidly (5,2)
48 Phileas Fogg story (6,3,5,2,6,4)
53 Complicatedly wound up (10)
55 Determined (10)
57 False (5)
59 Ascend (5)
61 Gossip (6)
62 Breathing disorder (6)
64 Bright plant (7)
66 Refraining from alcohol (9)
68 Artist's studio (7)
69 Duplicate glasses (5,4)
71 Nonsense (7)
72 Drunken revelry (11)
73 Not gregarious (7)
74 In contrary positions (2,8,5,2,3,5)

DOWN

1 Extensive (5,5)
2 Becoming slower (music) (11)
3 Fashionably (9)
4 Early sonar (5)
5 Excess (9)
6 Subordinate rulers (7)
7 Second weddings (11)
8 Microscopic animal (6)
9 Idle talk (8)
10 Corn bundle (5)
11 Loping forward (9,2)
12 Great feast (4,5)
13 Friendly calls (7)
14 Unravelling (15)
22 Paper shop (9)
25 Embryo substance (4,2,2,3)
27 Absence of gain (2,6)
30 Mockingly (2,8)
32 Uproars (7)
33 Contemptuous remarks (4,6)
35 Yellow tonic plant (7)
36 Take for another trial (3,2,6)
37 Used to advantage (7)
38 Accident victim's lawyer (9,6)
40 Underhand (3,4)
42 Astounding (8)
44 Foxglove preparation (9)
49 Property custody (11)
50 Fiery (11)
51 Tito national (11)
52 French air squadron (10)
54 Essential (music) (9)
56 Standard pole (9)
57 Murdered (6,3)
58 Not vague (5,3)
60 Allocate (5,2)
63 Obstacles (7)
65 Networks (6)
67 Pipes (5)
70 Wave-lapped (5)

SOLUTION TO No 46

ACROSS: 1 Canton 4 Josef 8 Inset 9 Michael 10 Forlorn 11 Spin 12 Gas 14 Nylon 15 Yucca 18 Gig 20 Cups 22 Robbers 24 Marcuse 25 Lusty 26 Stake 27 Eclair

DOWN: 1 Chiffon 2 Nostril 3 Outgoing 4 Jack 5 Sharp 6 Felon 7 Among 13 Symbolic 16 Chelsea 17 Assayer 19 Greet 20 Comus 21 Parka 23 Ruse

هكذا من الأصل

from high office to low tricks, who said what? (Answers at foot of page)



CABINET PUDDING

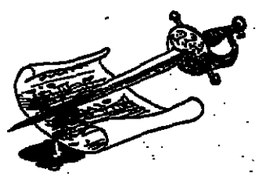
1 About what did John Major say (in February): "A record that he can be proud of and that I fully support"?

2 Which Cabinet minister said: "This is the policy of the level killing field"?

3 Who said: "We give the impression of being in office but not in power"?

4 Who said: "We have to decide how we are to get out of this dreadful hole we are in"?

5 Which Cabinet minister said: "I have the British dry-cleaning industry close to my heart"?



REMARKS OF THE YEAR

Whence came they?

1 "I'm sure we'd crack open a cup of tea if we won."

2 "A notorious playboy well known in the cellars of the night and in the whorehouses throughout Europe."

3 "Well, nobody's dead. At the end of this opera, everybody's dead."

4 "Either he is a jolly good Prime Minister and I am a silly old fool who has got it wrong. Or he is not a good Prime Minister and he will go. One of those propositions must be true."

5 "The Pope's a silly old fool."

6 "Aaawww, how could you ask me that question? — I am a gentleman."



DICTIONARY WATCH

1 Who said: "I won't have anything to do with bastard creations like 'Ombudsperson' "?

2 Where was "Majorism" not defined sufficiently?

3 Who defined a "ratbag" and included himself in the definition?

4 What kind of people require the "F-factor" and how would you define it?

5 Where was "Jesus" redefined from "the Founder of Christianity" to "a Jewish preacher regarded by his followers as the Son of God incarnate"?

6 What was defined by the Longman *Dictionary of English Language and Culture* as: "Famous for its temples and other beautiful buildings, and is also often mentioned as a place where there are a lot of prostitutes"?



QUOTING

1 Who said to whom, "In words far greater than mine: 'Well done, good and faithful servant' "?

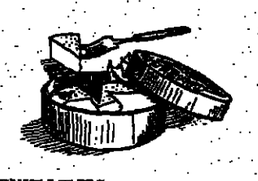
2 Who (misquoting) inscribed: "Don't let the buggers get you down"?

3 Who quoted Oscar Wilde: "We've had to face every difficulty except popularity"?

4 Who misquoted George Orwell's: "Old maids biking to Holy Communion through the mists of the Autumn morning"?

5 Who asked: "What's Lyndon Johnson's maxim?" and what is it?

6 Which new film ended by quoting Thomas Hood: "There is a silence where hath been no sound,/There is a silence where no sound may be,/In the cold grave — under the deep, deep sea"?



EXIT LINES

On whose deaths this year were these lines spoken or remembered?

1 "Now I don't need to die to be honoured more than I deserve."

2 "She always looked at death as her last great voyage."

3 "The only publisher in whose company a failed author could sit at ease."

4 "You're Mussolini/You're Mrs Sweeny/You're Camembert".

5 "You could see the *dampness* rising from the wet raincoats like mist on the marshes".

6 "Let's get on with it!"



NUDGE NUDGE

1 About what did Lord Hailsham say: "I am very happy to have them and I am also very happy not to have them"?

2 About what did George Michael say: "I think you might be a little shocked"?

3 About what did John Wayne Bobbitt say: "It hurt a lot"?

4 About what did Andrea Wonfor say: "No one will be moving their genitalia about in the air"?

5 Who said: "When I look back, the fondest memory I have is not of the Goons but a girl called Julia with enormous breasts"?

6 Concerning what did Samantha Fox say: "All I know is that it's about three sides, and this cleansing thing"?

Challenge the chess champions

Pit your wits against heroes past and present and win a book in our competition by **Raymond Keene**

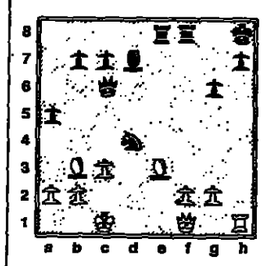
To celebrate Christmas, New Year and the support by *The Times* for the 1993 World Chess Championship, here are six positions by world champions of the past and present to be solved over the festive season. I am looking only for the champions' next move, which, in each case, would have exerted a decisive influence on the further course of the game. There will be 50 signed copies of the book *Discover Your Chess Strength* on offer for the winners.

All the victors in the following positions were, or are, world champions: Wilhelm Steinitz was champion from 1886 to 1894; Emanuel Lasker from 1894 to 1921; José Capablanca from 1921 to 1927; Alexander Alekhine from 1927 to 1935 and from 1937 to 1946; Bobby Fischer from 1972 to 1975; and Garry Kasparov from 1985 to the present day.

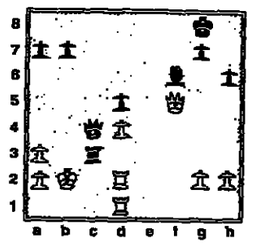
In each position, the champion's next move was a brilliant stroke, sacrificing material to force checkmate or recoup an overwhelming material superiority.

Good luck solving.

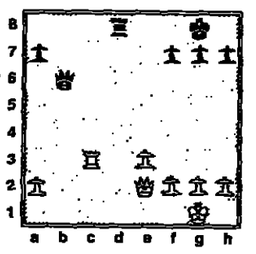
Position 1
White: Steinitz
Black: Chigorin
Havana 1892
White to play. How did the first world champion crash through?



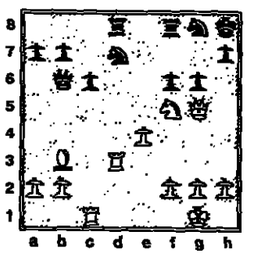
Position 2
White: Pillsbury
Black: Lasker
St Petersburg 1896
Black to play. Black has a promising attack. What is the key move which continues his offensive?



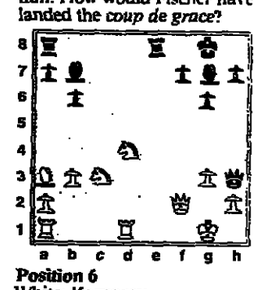
Position 3
White: Bernstein
Black: Capablanca
Moscow 1914
Black to play. Capablanca is a pawn down but has a strong continuation available. What is it?



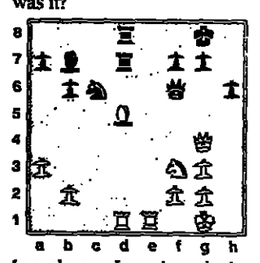
Position 4
White: Alekhine
Black: Lasker
Zurich 1934
White to play. How does Alekhine crown his kingside attack?



Position 5
White: Byrne
Black: Fischer
US Championship 1963
Black to play. Byrne had already capitulated, having seen what was in store for him. How would Fischer have landed the *coup de grace*?



Position 6
White: Kasparov
Black: Karpov
Moscow 1985
White to play. This position looks harmless but Kasparov had a trick up his sleeve. What was it?



In each case, I require only the first move of the solution.

Send your answers on a postcard to Challenge the Champions, Times Christmas Chess Competition, c/o The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN, to arrive not later than Friday January 7, 1994. The senders of the first 50 correct answers drawn out of the sack will receive a signed copy of *Discover Your Chess Strength* (Batsford), with 130 diagrams and 144 pages, normally costing £12.99. The solution will be published in the Times Magazine on Saturday January 15. Normal *Times* competition rules apply.



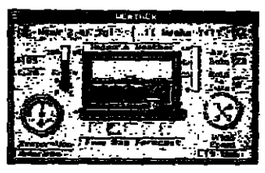
COMPUTER GAMES

SimFarm

THE ten winners of the *Magazine's* Cyberspace One competition were sent copies of SimFarm, billed by Mindscape as "SimCity's country cousin". The ten winners of the Cyberspace Two competition will each receive a copy of Sim 2000, the long awaited sequel to SimCity. All you have to do to win is to tell us your favourite hint, wrinkle, tactic, strategy or cheat from any — repeat any — classic game.

You should send your either typed or clearly handwritten suggestions to Cyberspace Two, *The Times* Magazine, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN by December 31. But beware. We are familiar with most of the ways of cheating the SimCity program, so try to be a little original. For instance, Railroad Tycoon is mostly played as a train scheduling game, but it can also be great fun as a business game and there are some ingenious ways of ensuring that you end up owning all the railroads of the world. Other games also offer interesting byways, so let us into the secret and soon you will be discovering the joys of Sim 2000, which is not available in the shops until next year.

In the meantime, here is the verdict of one of our Cyberspace One winners, Roger Filler of Welwyn Garden City, on SimFarm. "I have never been a big fan of *The Archers* and will usually reach for the remote control when *Emmerdale* appears on TV, so I'm finding it difficult to explain why I am enjoying SimFarm so much, for this latest simulation from Maxis has none of the characteristics currently in vogue with games designers.



"It is not big and brash, requiring inordinate amounts of memory and disk space; there is no fantasy aspect to it; and if you favour the hack and slash style of game-play, forget SimFarm and become a French farmer. SimFarm is a gentle simulation where the most important decisions are, shall I plant tomatoes tomorrow or take a chance on some lettuce? It sounds deadly dull, but it is one of the most absorbing games I have played for months — a strategy game where the only thing that gets killed is the pesky greenfly.

"After selecting a piece of land from the main map and buying some farm equipment, you choose what you fancy growing from over 20 varieties of crops which all like different soil conditions and need to be planted at different times. Having grown a few vegetables in my time I thought I knew my onions, and a basic knowledge of horticulture will help you up to a point. But how many in this country know how to grow peanuts or tobacco? Part of the attraction of the game is that you need to give everything a try, and if you lose all your carrots one year, so what? There is always the next.

"I made a killing by accident early in my first game when I harvested my strawberries two weeks early, and sold them at an incredibly high price which gave me the capital to buy a dozen sheep. The game soon became a balancing act between me and the elements, the demands of the land and those of the bank manager. As the local town grows, so do you. You can buy extra land when finances permit and if you feel like a flutter you can sell your produce on the futures market.

"The game can run as fast or as slow as you want, and you can freeze the action completely to have a good look around your estate, which is useful when planning your crop rotation. It is also not without humour; one night one of my pigs escaped and rampaged through a field of strawberries before I could shoo him back into his pen.

"The scrolling of screens takes some getting used to, but graphically the game is very pleasing. Tractors buzz around fields and teams of hands suddenly descend on your land when hand-picked crops need harvesting. You can build roads and fences, site irrigation ditches and, if there is a water source nearby, install a water pump to keep your land irrigated.

"One fault: the large number of icons on the screen are very small and can be hard to recognise. I also wonder what happens when at last the perfect farm is achieved. I have been playing for several evenings and still have a long way to go, but the time will eventually come. Now, if you'll excuse me I've some carrots to plants, the pigs need feeding and there's a fence down in the paddock."

ENTER PASSWORD

John Diamond

AS THE time of good cheer and peace between all anoraks approached, Cix was overtaken by a fit of flaming — this being the bulleting board term for one communicant raging violently at another whom he only knows via the computer. Most of all the flaming was about transport:

times/news2 #3525, from dj
Go catch a train around London in the morning and tell me there's not the demand for more capacity *right now* and the demand for a reasonable quality of service. You say there are very few journeys you could use the tube or bus for but that's the point, you silly boy: we need to increase the access to public transport with a good quality of service. Just because you are a selfish moron who likes to pollute the atmosphere, jam up the roads, play loud music and not have to carry your briefcase doesn't mean the users of public transport should have to suffer.

times/news2 #3554, from nsykes
A trifle simplistic, I'm afraid.

First of all, what the market wants, the market gets, and most people (including me) would rather not travel than use a train. Secondly, there is no way of increasing the capacity of public transport in London without knocking down buildings. Lengthening the lines (which is what the Government proposes with the Jubilee and CrossRail projects) will only increase the pressure on the clapped-out Tube system. To increase the capacity of the Central line you would have to increase the diameter of the tunnels to allow bigger trains (they cannot get longer because some stations are already too short for the existing plant). All the rolling stock which could take advantage of this would then be incompatible with the rest of LRT, creating serious operational problems. Thirdly, the congestion problems occur primarily in the rush-hours.



Outside of these hours the roads are relatively quiet: my journey to work (Royston-Shepherds Bush) at 06:15 normally takes about an hour compared to 1:45 by BR and LRT. The trains are equally congested during rush-hours, and would be more so if people were forced by law to use them. Roads are incredibly efficient outside rush-hours: they do not need to be switched on or staffed. Railways, OTOH, are massively labour intensive at all times of the day. Also, the cost of rolling stock is so high that it can only be replaced every 20 or 30 years, again causing operational problems we have all observed, as well as discouraging jumps in technology which could improve efficiency. The nation's road vehicles, by contrast, are renewed every ten years.

times/news2 #3619, from dj
What's your answer to *London's* transport problem?

times/news2 #3632, from acam
(From a ten-point manifesto).
1c) Get rid of the geen belt. This was created so that people could travel out of London and see a bit of green — but travel is so rapid these days that the green belt could start at Devon while making no significant difference. Once you stop trying to cram the outskirts of London into an area too small for them traffic will lighten up. Start shooting NIMBYs. The idea that an area will remain pleasant forever is daft.

JOINING CIX

All you need is a computer — any computer — a modem of at least 1,200 baud and a credit-card number. Your modem instructions will explain how to use it to dial 081-390 1244 or 1255, the CIX number. Once you've made contact, the system will guide you through to your first session. CIX costs £25 to join and that gets you a full instruction manual. On-line charges are £3.60 an hour from 9am to 5pm and £2.40 an hour the rest of the time. To join *The Times* conference, simply type "join times" and you'll be in. To see what other conferences are available, type "show all" and the list will appear on the screen.

Be your own bridge judge

There are more books to be won in **Albert Dormer**'s seasonal competition — this year with a twist

This year the Christmas competition takes a new and perhaps more practical form. It will be marked wholly by the consensus of those who submit entries.

You are asked to imagine that you are playing cut-in in your usual circle, but with a strange partner. "Standard, variable no-trump, Stayman and Blackwood," is the only protocol you have the time — and perhaps the inclination — to establish.

Marks out of 20 for each problem will be derived from the answers submitted by solvers. If there are, say, 240 votes for the most popular call and 180 for the next most popular, the two calls will receive 20 and 15 marks respectively, and so on.

The solver should aim to identify the calls most likely to succeed in real life between players who are not regular partners.

There will be ten prizewinners. The first receives £50, the next four £25, plus a copy of Larry Cohen's new book, *To Bid Or Not To Bid*. The next five will receive the book. Ties will be broken by lucky dip.

Entries must be received by January 14 and should be addressed to *The Times* Magazine, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Please mark the envelope "Bridge Competition" in the top left-hand corner. Solutions and winners' names will appear on January 29 and the problems will be discussed that week and the following week.

The problems

1. Neither side vulnerable, the bidding goes:

W	N	E	S
	1♦	2♠	Dble
2♠	No	No	?

What should South call with this hand?
♠A6 ♥K1085 ♦84 ♣QJ852

2. Neither side vulnerable.

W	N	E	S
			1♣
No	3♣	No	?

What should South call?
♠AJ9764 ♥- ♦KJ96 ♣A103

3. East-West vulnerable

W	N	E	S
No	1♥	No	2♠
No	2♣	No	?

What should South call?
♠Q32 ♥1053 ♦AKQ1043 ♣5

4. East-West vulnerable

W	N	E	S
	3♦	No	?

What should South call?
♠Q82 ♥Q54 ♦J863 ♣A62

5. East-West vulnerable

W	N	E	S
		1♦	1♥
No	3♥	3♠	?

What should South call?
♠743 ♥AJ864 ♦- ♣QJ752

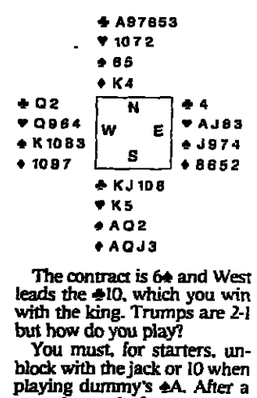
BOOK REVIEW

A new book, *Test Your Bridge Judgement*, is by Barry Rigal, a leading player who is also well known as a magazine contributor and Vu-Graph commentator at international events.

The main focus is to develop the reader's judgment within the framework of a standard-based — but disciplined — bidding style, defined by the author, of the kind that is needed for success in the modern game. Team scoring is assumed.

In each of 33 deals, the reader is presented with bidding problems at different stages of the auction. Then he is tested on the play of the hand. At all stages, points are awarded for correct decisions and there is discussion of the underlying reasoning.

This is one of the simpler play problems, but it is quite attractive. Cover up the East-West cards. (When reading the book you won't need to do that, as the problems are suitably set out.)



The contract is 6♠ and West leads the ♣10, which you win with the king. Trumps are 2-1 but how do you play?

You must, for starters, unblock with the jack or 10 when playing dummy's ♠A. After a second round of trumps, you cash the clubs, discarding hearts from dummy; then cross with the ♠8 to dummy's 9 and lead dummy's last heart.

With this sequence you have two chances: if East has the ♥A, a diamond from dummy will go away on the ♥K; and if he has not, you can ruff a heart and take the diamond finesse.

The improving tournament player will find this book instructive and enjoyable. Paperback, 174 pages, £9.99, published by Cadogan Bridge.

PICTURE QUOTES: Graham Taylor — quote 6; Jeremy Paxman — 5 (on being admitted to the Garrick club in Stockton-on-Tees); Emma Thompson — 1; Michael Jackson — 3; Duchess of York — 2; John Major — 4.
CABINET PUDDING: 1. Norman Lamont's record as Chancellor. 2. Douglas Hurd on lifting the arms embargo in Bosnia in favour of Muslims only. 3. Norman Lamont in his resignation statement. 4. Kenneth Clarke (in May). 5. John Gummer.
REMARKS OF THE YEAR: 1. Salvation Army spokesperson about the Nobel Peace Prize. 2. The Iraqi newspaper *Babel* on the Prince of Wales. 3. Sir Patrick Mayhew after Belfast explosion. He was at *Lucia di Lammermoor*. 4. Lord Rees-Mogg on John Major. 5. Clare Short MP on the Pope's birth control views. 6. Michael Jackson when asked on TV if he was a virgin.
DICTIONARY WATCH: 1. William Reid, the PCA or Ombudsman. 2. *The New Shorter Oxford English Dictionary* (the word is included but with no indication of what it might mean). 3. David Banks, *Daily Mirror* editor, used the word of himself and the man who sold the gym photos of the Princess of Wales. 4. Presenters at GMTV breakfast television; "fanciability-factor" is one definition. 5. *The New Shorter Oxford English Dictionary*. 6. Bangkok.
QUOTING: 1. Lady Thatcher bidding farewell to President Bush and quoting Matthew 25:21 or Luke 19:17. 2. Michael Mates on the watch he gave to Asil Nadir — the cod Latin *Nil carborundum illegitimi* is usually translated as "don't let the buggers *grind* you down". 3. Sir Norman Fowler at Conservative Party Conference time. 4. John Major said: "Old maids bicycling to Holy Communion through the morning mist." 5. John Major in the "bastards" conversation: (LBJ on why he kept J. Edgar Hoover at the FBI: "I'd much rather have that fellow inside my tent pissing out, than outside my tent pissing in.") 6. *The Piano*.
EXIT LINES: 1. Federico Fellini had spoken them earlier in the year on receiving a special Oscar. 2. John (Jock) Murray, publisher, of Dame Freya Stark. 3. Anon of John (Jock) Murray. 4. Margaret, Duchess of Argyll, included by Cole Porter in "You're the Top" when she was Mrs Charles Sweeny. 5. Les Dawson (on matinées at Bridlington). 6. Nat Mills, variety star.
NUDGE NUDGE: 1. On the admission of women to "gentlemen only" clubs. 2. Passing a note of his earnings to a High Court judge. 3. Having his penis cut off by his wife. 4. Commissioning a nude chat show on Channel 4. 5. Spike Milligan on his 75th birthday. 6. Bosnia, which she visited.

● *Nigel Rees is the deviser and presenter of BBC Radio 4's* Quote... Unquote *programme and editor of Chambers Dictionary of Modern Quotations.*

Heart of England repays a debt

James Hepburn meets the Marchioness of Salisbury to learn about her charitable mission to help Poland

In August 1980 at the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk, an unemployed electrician with a walrus moustache stood up on a bulldozer and called for a strike. Two weeks later, "Solidarity" was formed and the first screw was loosened in the Soviet empire.

It was a slow process. By 1982 Poland was under martial law and Lech Walesa, along with 10,000 Solidarity activists, was imprisoned. The economy had ground to a halt. There were desperate shortages of food, clothing and medicines.

Across Western Europe, organisations and individuals collected and shipped supplies. But aid is a slave to fashion. Twelve years later only a fraction of those who set out in early 1982 are still on the road. Among those who have stuck with the cause is Help Poland Fund, founded by the Marchioness of Salisbury and Mrs Nicholas Beaumont, with its depot at Hatfield House.

For one of the great houses of England, Hatfield sits a little incongruously, its ground penned in by suburban Hertfordshire. The statue of Robert Arthur Talbot Gasgoyne-Cecil, the third marquess, glowers from the gates across the dual carriageway towards the tea-shop in the car park of the station.

The Cecils have shored up the government of England for long stretches of the past 400 years. They have tended to marry impressive women. The first Marchioness of Salisbury hunted to the age of 85, half blind, strapped to her saddle, accompanied by a groom heralding each fence with "Jump, dammit, my lady, jump!" The Duke of Wellington so adored her successor that he wore the coat of the Hatfield Hounds on his campaigns and festooned the staircases of the house with enemy standards captured at Waterloo.

In my time I have met a number of truck drivers. None of them looked the slightest like the present marchioness. In her drawing-room, looking over the grounds where Elizabeth I was told the news of her succession, my first impression was that the truck had not yet been invented. In her high lace collar, the marchioness seems to belong more to the age of the Armada than the Channel Tunnel.

Help Poland Fund, for which Lady Salisbury drives 24-ton trucks, was born partly from gratitude for help during the Second World War, and guilt for afterwards abandoning the country to Stalin. To Lady Salisbury, it is bitter irony that we entered the conflict for Poland's sake.

The history of Poland is one of bravery and suffering. The country has been cursed by geography, sandwiched between ambitious empires. In 1795, a century after King John Sobieski and his winged Polish Hussars had saved Christian Europe from the Turks at the gates of Vienna, his country was struck from the map, parcelled between Russia, Austria and Prussia. Poland re-emerged after the First World War as an independent state. Twenty years later, protected by flawed guarantees from the Allies, its forces hopelessly split and ill-equipped, its western borders were overrun by Hitler, and Russia gobbled up the east.





Lady Salisbury believes that without the help of Polish airmen we would have lost the Battle of Britain

Over the next six years, millions were shipped as slave labour to Russia and Germany. Four and a half million died: 200,000 children were kidnapped for "Germanisation". Despite gruesome reprisals, the Resistance fought on. Finally, in the late summer of 1944, with the Red Army entering the city's eastern suburbs, Warsaw rose in revolt against the Germans. They fought for six weeks while Stalin halted the Russian advance, refused to help with arms and ammunition or to refuel Allied planes flying supplies from Italy, and waited for the Waffen SS to retake the city, butchering from house to house.

Part of the Polish fleet, along with thousands of Polish soldiers and airmen, had escaped to the allied lines in 1939. One in ten pilots in the RAF was Polish. Lady Salisbury believes that without the Polish airmen we would have lost the Battle of Britain.

Poland's reward was the liquidation of its national resistance and a pro-Soviet Communist government. Members of the Free Polish Forces were allowed to remain in Britain but encouraged to return home on the back of Stalin's empty promises.

Help Poland Fund made its first journey in April 1982. Volunteers crossed from East Germany in three trucks loaded with medicine and clothing. They had no contacts and not a word of Polish. At the time, the Catholic church was the one reliable point of distribution. They reached a town centre and asked for the priest. Since then they have made two or three journeys a year and now work directly with orphanages and hospitals.

The organisation concentrates on meeting the emergency needs of children. It is sustained by donations and the work of volunteers, who run the shop at Hatfield House. They work from lists of vital requirements provided by the recipients. Their first trucks were scrounged from scrapyards, but they now own a cut-price ex-Royal Mail vehicle donated by Rotoract.

Since 1982, it has become more difficult to attract donors. As the Iron Curtain began to crumble, Poland became yesterday's cause. From December 1989, Romania seized the public's imagination. Anyone with a Transit van and a feel for disintegrating empires headed for Timişoara.

Help Poland Fund has stayed loyal. Lady Salisbury talks of an orphanage run by six nuns for handicapped children in Łódź. Many of the children cannot move; most are incontinent. When Help Poland Fund first made contact the nuns had no soap, but the children and the sheets were spotless. They now have washing and drying machines. Even so, she sees the need now as greater than ever.

MICHAEL POWELL



Lady Salisbury at Hatfield House and (above left) in the Help Poland Fund charity shop

Anything can be bought in the Polish shops, but only foreigners, the lucky and the criminal can pay the prices. The post-war drive for industrialisation has left a horrible legacy of pollution. Katowice is perhaps the most poisoned place in Europe — the acid rain is so concentrated that it has eaten the railway lines and dissolved the gold on the roof of Cracow cathedral, 40 miles away. Prices approaching Western level have left great chunks of the population behind. There are 600 children in the Warsaw Heart Hospital with diseases caused by pollution. Whatever can make money is exported, but there is little cash to spare for reform or development. Now, at last, Poland has its own factory for making hypodermic syringes, but little to put inside them.

There is none of the "Lady Bountiful" about Lady Salisbury and the work of Help Poland Fund. The Poles have too much pride for that. She talks of villages insisting on pooling a monthly meat ration that would fit between the buns of a small hamburger to feed her and her companions, of improbable acts of generosity on pitted roads in forgotten corners. There is no charity here. It is a small way towards making amends.

● *Help Poland Fund, 0707 260228.*

Music is free in Moscow

Season's greetings from Father Frost and Red Square

THE *Moscow Times*, indispensable organ of the ex-pat community, landed today bearing the really important news of the month. "The Stockmann's truck arrives on Tuesday from Finland with 1,500 turkeys" it trumpeted, and forth we rushed to bag ours, schooled in the Russian habit of buying anything unusual lest it disappear by the next morning.

For a city of ten million Moscow still lives up to its old nickname of the *bolshaya derevnya*, or big village. Foreigners' Moscow is a very small place indeed. Our one choir has just performed *Messiah*, which both the British and American ambassadors dutifully attended. Invitations to six Christmas parties are assured, all of which will be attended by the same people. Like good village folk, we carefully plot our social calendars so that these occasions never strain community loyalties.

Festive cheer does not always extend to Russian officials, however. The traffic police have got wise to the number of bribes that can be collected after Christmas parties. But there is the occasional unexpected glow of humanity in a dark place. One customs officer at Sheremetevo airport, despite looking askance at two large jars of undeclared mincemeat, heeded my seasonal special pleading and desisted from plunging his grubby fingers into the mixture in search of illegal substances.

Had I harboured the slightest doubts about repeating the celebrations on a grand scale, they were dispelled by the enthusiasm of my Russian guests last year over celebrating a festival downgraded by communism in favour of the godless New Year. Nikolai, the office driver, declared the ginger ale proffered with his pre-prandial whisky to be the most delicious thing he had ever tasted, and declined further offers of the hard stuff in favour of tumblers full of the mixer. Brandy butter was hailed as a culinary masterpiece. The Queen's speech, courtesy of cable television, had everyone mesmerised. Any disappointment suffered by one Russian guest last time round, when he discovered that the pudding was not served inside the turkey as rumoured, was thankfully transient, and the bizarre British habit of eating quantities of boiled vegetables with the meat course was mastered politely, if without conviction.

Nowadays of course, we have it easy. Three years ago a certain Soviet ministry, no prizes for guessing which, was still pursuing the unlovely tradition of staging a press conference on the afternoon of Christmas Day, specially scheduled to disrupt the festivities. But there is the occasional unexpected glow of humanity in a dark place. One customs officer at Sheremetevo airport, despite looking askance at two large jars of undeclared mincemeat, heeded my seasonal special pleading and desisted from plunging his grubby fingers into the mixture in search of illegal substances.

The reindeer herd go shopping

Tonight, Santa's transport division will be sleighing the world with gifts. **Jenny McClean** caught up with his reindeer at Ilford, Essex

A crowded town centre is not the obvious place to spot a group of reindeer. Yet there they were, grunting contentedly and munching hay, to the delight of Christmas shoppers.

The animals were part of The Cairngorm Reindeer Herd, the only one of its kind in Britain, and were on their fifth annual tour of shopping centres to raise funds to support the 90-strong herd run by Elizabeth Smith and her husband, Alan, at Aviemore, Inverness-shire.

Mrs Smith enjoys touring more than her husband does: "Alan can't wait to get back to his beloved hills," she says, although he jumped at the chance to be with her at the first International Festival for the World's Reindeer Herders, held in Norway recently.

On the forecourt of the Exchange shopping centre at Ilford, Essex, one of the tour stops, the reindeer looked sanguine. Being herd animals, they are happy so long as they are with their fellows, Mrs Smith says.

The Smiths run three touring teams with the help of farmer friends from Scotland and Wales. Each team comprises four geldings and, usually, a calf — in this case, a six-month-old called Wolf, whose antlers looked like two pencils sticking out of his head.

At most venues, two of the adults pull a sleigh for 15 minutes or so while the two "spare wheels" and the calf walk behind. The shopping centre provides the Father Christmas. The spectacle is impressive and a huge draw; at Uxbridge Pavilions, west London, last year they attracted 3,000 people, much to the traders' delight. A public relations manager said: "Reindeer are brilliant and less temperamental than your average 'Bart Simpson' or 'Snoopy'; they don't shout at children from inside the costume."

Reindeer were reintroduced to Britain from Scandinavia in 1952 by a Swede, Mikel Utsi. According to the Natural History Museum in London, the most recent evidence of indigenous reindeer comes from a cave in Sutherland and dates back 8,300 years. A 12th-century saga citing reindeer in Orkney has yet to be backed by archaeological finds.

In 1978, Mr Smith, then a teenager, went to work for Mr Utsi as a keeper, and later managed the herd for Mrs Utsi after her husband died. He met his wife, a zoology graduate from Bristol University, in 1981 when she joined as a volunteer. After Mrs Utsi's death in 1988, the couple bought the herd from the family, developed the visitors' centre and launched an adopt-a-reindeer support scheme. Their most popular animal is Ferrari, a little white two-year-old, who has about 20 paid-up supporters.

The reindeer are not killed for meat or leather, and all have names: yes, there was a Rudolph, though he has long since joined the great sleigh-team in the sky.

"Our aim is to build the herd up to about 200 and take on more sites," Mrs Smith says. "Where we are now, we have problems with attacks by dogs, and with the deer eating litter. In an ideal world, I would have reindeer all over the Scottish hills."

The Smith's 90 deer live in a 6,000-acre enclosure, and feed on moss, grass, plants such as heather, and are given food supplements. Their favoured habitat would be on hillsides at 2,000-3,000ft, but in this area the grazing is too poor.

"Reindeer are extremely hardy, with wonderfully shaggy coats. They do not damage their environment and are in harmony with it in a way that sheep aren't," Mrs Smith says. "Although they are in competition with other browsers, such as red deer, they ignore them. There's no hybridisation and there are no longer any carnivores to prey on them. They lead a very quiet life."

Mrs Smith has noticed a difference between her reindeer and those in zoos "who don't have these lovely white markings underneath, and are more nervous."

Certainly, the five reindeer at Ilford showed no signs of skittishness, even when a small army of toddlers took it in turns to jingle their bells and ruffle the animals' fur.

"Our reindeer are tame because they are used to people," Mrs Smith says. "We take tourists out on to the hills and our children — Alex, eight, and Fiona, seven — help. The deer will come to a call, though we sometimes use a collie to help round them up.

Getting the deer into their touring transporter is not the problem it might seem. "They just walk in and know how to avoid each other's antlers," Mrs Smith says. In any case, many of them will have lost their antlers by late autumn. Eight-year-old Johan has just dropped half of his splendid head-set, giving him a lop-sided look, and all the adults were shedding the velvet covering, revealing the solid bone beneath.

These are the only deer in which both sexes are antlered, the males growing a new pair each spring. Occasionally, a female, such as Ferrari, will never grow a set, a fact which so worried one young lad he sent her a pair.

"Unfortunately," Mrs smith says, "there was difficulty keeping them on, but it was a kind thought."

● *Cairngorm Reindeer Centre, Reindeer House, Glenmore, Aviemore, Inverness-shire PH22 1QU (0479 861228).*

ROBIN MAYES

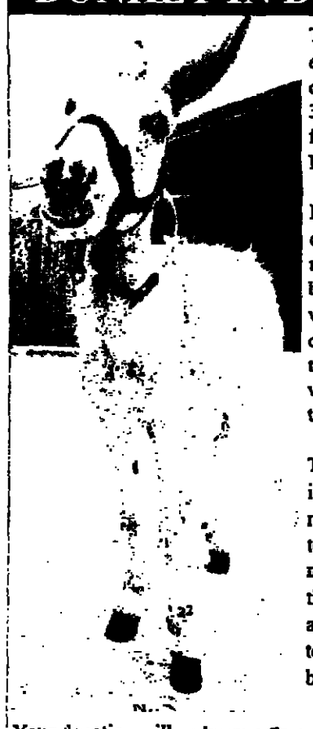


It's not often children get to meet Santa's antlered helpers — particularly in Ilford



Elizabeth Smith on tour with her reindeer fund-raisers

PLEASE HELP A LITTLE DONKEY IN DISTRESS



This terribly emaciated donkey is called Sara - one of 35 donkeys rescued from a dealer in Blackpool.

Many of these poor donkeys were forced to work by day on the beaches and by night were kept in horrific conditions often up to their knees in dung with little or no feed to sustain them.

They are now safely in the Sanctuary, recovering from their terrible ordeal. We must continue to tighten conditions so a reoccurrence of this terrible situation can be prevented.

Your donation will make sure Sara and her friends can, at last, have a happy Christmas.

PLEASE HELP US TO HELP THEM

To help The Donkey Sanctuary,
Please send donations to:
The Donkey Sanctuary, (Dept 121),
Sidmouth, Devon. EX10 0NU
Tel: (0395) 578222
Enquiries to Dr E.D. Svendsen, M.B.E., D.V.M.S.
Reg. Charity No. 264818

I enclose Cheque/Postal Order for £ _____
Name: Mr/Mrs/Miss _____
Address _____
_____
_____ Post Code _____
(Dept Y4

هكذا من الاصل

free in Moscow

on's ings Father and quare

this Christmas, but other jollities do not come cheap. **Anne McElvoy** reports on the festivities among the expatriate community



REX FEATURES

Snow decorates St Basil's cathedral in Moscow; even Boris Yeltsin will be going to church on January 6, the eve of the Russian Christmas, now restored as a public holiday



Goods may be in short supply, but there is plenty of festive decoration on show in this department store (right), even though Christmas trees were once denounced as a "bourgeois diversion". Below, Father Frost leaves these Muscovites rather unamused, but a festive meal for most people (bottom) should restore good humour — party guests consider it insulting to bring a bottle, but every new arrival bears more food





But in the village, we keep a sense of perspective about such matters. The rendition of *Messiah*, while hardly a performance worthy of the massed ranks of the Huddersfield Choral Society, had us in a state of suspense for weeks beforehand. Black bow ties proved a tricky accoutrement to find, but they arrived courtesy of a friendly American entrepreneur just in time.

The orchestra lent for the occasion by the Moscow conservatory turned out never to have seen the work before, so the notes were not always in the order Handel intended them. Tatiana the soloist had a problem pronouncing "th", but this was more than compensated for by the look of pure joy on her face as she sang "I know that My Redeemer Liveth" in the bare Anglican Church expropriated by the Bolsheviks in 1920, and only now being restored. "Why should the Nations so Furiously Rage Together?" seemed particularly apposite in this part of the world, too.

Music is free, but other jollities do not come cheap in a city which has now overtaken Hong Kong for food and restaurant prices. Our one cheap luxury, caviar, has quadrupled in price since the government kicked Caucasian market traders out of Moscow in an over-enthusiastic clampdown on organised crime. Christmas dinner ingredients for ten last year cost £200, and since then both dollar and rouble inflation have galloped faster than Santa's reindeer, so I am going to take my credit card to Stockmann's and sign on the dotted line without inspecting the total, lest the shock bring out Scrooge-like tendencies.

Boris Yeltsin, keen to recover pre-revolutionary traditions, will attend the Orthodox vigil in the Kremlin cathedral on January 6, the eve of the Russian Christmas Day which has been restored as a public holiday. But most people have forgotten *how* to celebrate *Rozhdestvo*, and the Church is unlikely to have much success in reintroducing the tradition of the ascetic Advent running up to the day.

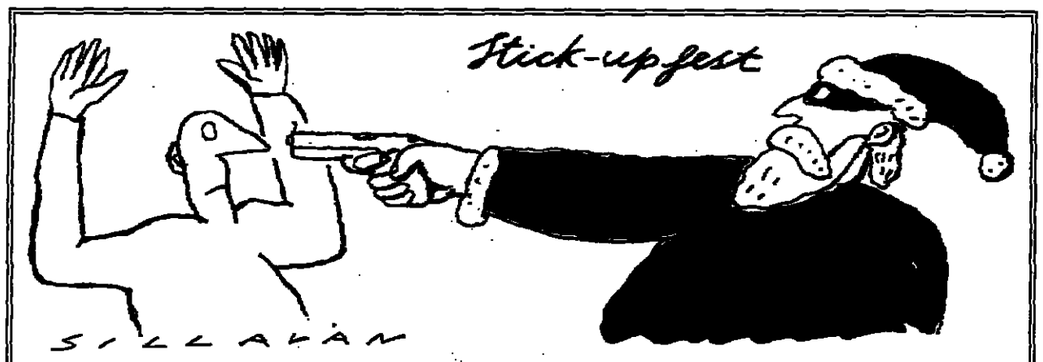
At least *Ded Maroz* (Father Frost) proved communist-proof, and Christmas trees managed to survive a hefty ideological debate just after the Revolution when a special commission, anxious to out-Lenin Lenin for sheer disagreeableness, sought to ban them as a bourgeois diversion.

One thing the revolutionaries did manage to destroy, first by collectivisation, later by bone-headed agricultural mismanagement, was seasonal feasting. The weekly magazine *Ogonyok* has had to remind its readers what Yuletide fare should consist of — *pirogi* (tiny glazed pies filled with meat or mushrooms), flounder, goose giblet soup with cognac, roast fowl with pickled cabbage, sesame seeds and mugwort, fried stuffed pork with baked apple and fruit tart to follow. No longer. Asked what modern Russians eat at home on the day, a friend replied sourly: "Whatever we can find in the shops."

Still, one of this country's great mysteries is that what appears on the table far exceeds what is on the shelves. No guest would dream of bringing a bottle to a New Year party (bad manners: implies that the host is needy or a drunk), but supplementary dishes appear with every new arrival, however late. So by 4am, when the western world has slumped into a coma awash with unabsorbed alcohol, the Russians are sitting down to a roasted chicken in anticipation of opening yet another bottle of Stolichnaya or sweet sparkling wine afterwards.

"Poor you!" reads one card from a friend who can think of no worse fate than spending December 25 in Russia. Bah humbug to him. He has not seen the Kremlin's red stars, stark symbols of ideology, transformed into seasonal decorations winking in the navy-blue night sky, nor skated in Gorky Park, nor opened a small package left inside his boots and disgorging seven Father Frost *matroushka* dolls, each tinier and more exquisite than the last. *S Rozhdestvom* from the biggest village of all.

CORRECTION: Hackett (Weekend, December 18) is at 137-138 Sloane St, London SW1 (071-730 3331). Braxted Park (0621 892305) is available to let in August and September.



New York

MODES

THE WORD
Or rather the suffix: fest. Has slightly derogatory air and can be added to most nouns, such us smirkfest, lovefest, schmoozefest, etc. Useful in the festive season.

THE MAIL
Nobody who is anybody actually shops in the old-fashioned way — you know, in person with cash. Instead, Christmas shopping is done at home in less than an hour with the classy J. Crew, L. L. Bean and Nieman Marcus catalogues. The J. Peterson catalogue is illustrated with paintings of each item, such as Edwardian riding waistcoats, and is a joy to peruse in bed, with phone and credit card to hand. If you order on December 23, most American mail-order companies will deliver gift-wrapped presents on Christmas Eve.

THE GRAFFITI I
Skinny model Kate Moss's latest advertisements for Calvin Klein underwear have been appropriated by the enemy. On bus shelters across Manhattan, "Anorexia" signs have been pasted on her stomach or "Feed me" stickers on her mouth.

THE TOY
F. A. O. Schwarz, New York's biggest toyshop, is selling out of Balzacs, giant spherical objects which can be sat on or thrown. A clever combo of ball and sack (balzac, geddit), the balloon inside the funky printed cloth cover can be replaced every time your child destroys it with something sharp.

SPOT THE CULT: TRUE OR FALSE?
A) The emergence of the drag queen as bridesmaid. B) The emergence of a feminist group called Culture Babes. C) The emergence of marriage-guidance therapy for dogs and cats.
Answers
A) True. Downtown society hostess Susanne Bartsch will have 43 drag queens as bridesmaids at her wedding on St Valentine's Day, one for each year of her life. B) True. Over monthly cocktails, these twenty and thirty-something women intend to reclaim the word "babe". C) False. But watch this space.

THE SPA
For the frazzled executive who knows that "each of us has the knowledge and ability to live life as a balanced, healthy person," the spot of choice is the New Age Health Spa in Neversink, outside New York. Using ancient knowledge, hiking, T'ai Chi, yoga and sprout sandwiches, you too can find your inner child for a mere $125 a day.

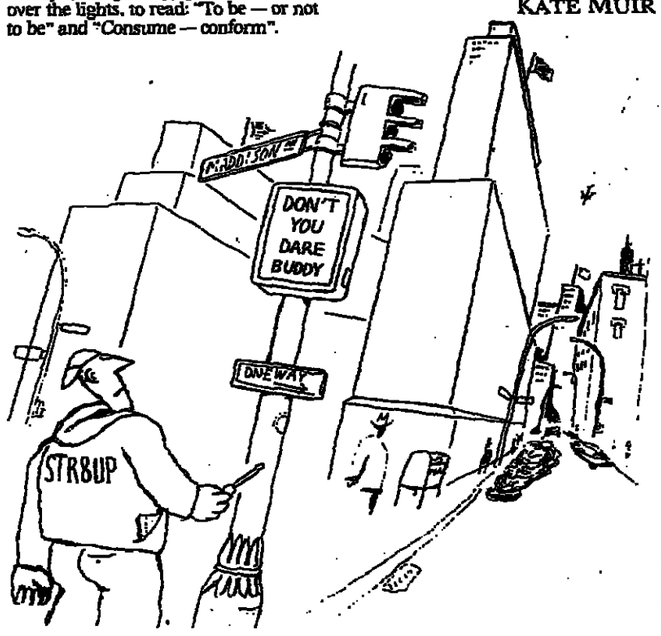
THE GRAFFITI II
The "Walk — don't walk" traffic signs have gone philosophical. Graffiti artist Str&up (Straight Up) puts new letters over the lights, to read: "To be — or not to be" and "Consume — conform".

THE SHOE
Post-platform, the toddler's sandal for adults had to come. Looking very much like the Clark's or Startrite sandal of yore, adults are expected to pay $235 for this infantilising look from Peter Fox Shoes. Slogan? "You're as young as you feel."

THE ANGEL
If Michelangelo had copyright on those *putti*, he could have retired from the mural business much earlier. The first shop dedicated to the species has just opened in New York. Called Everything Angels, it stocks brooches, soaps, earrings, posters, angel biscuit cutters and, of course, the Cherub Catalogue "for all your spiritual needs".

THE CHANNEL
The chattering classes have abandoned the CNN news channel as their television wallpaper and have turned, *en masse*, to Court TV. Live coverage of Mafia trials is a perennial delight.

KATE MUIR



IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 1494 BEGAN PRODUCTION OF THE WORLD'S FINEST LIQUOR . . .

Now, 500 years on, you have the opportunity to enjoy the authentic flavours and the privileges of membership of

THE WHISKY CONNOISSEUR



The nectar that comes from the desolate country of lonely glens, windswept hills, fierce torrents, was developed to warm the inner self. Its unique essences and fragrances start by titillating your nose with wondrous aromas. Your palate is blessed with superb flavours which drift down slowly – and warmly – through the gullet to your stomach. Spreading gentle fire to the extremities. Truly the Water of Life gives you strength and hope. As Highland author Neil Gunn wrote:- "the noble works of creation are made manifest".

AN AUTHENTIC FLAVOUR

*The Whisky Connoisseur's Club brings you the world's greatest spirit. From the advent of blending by men like John Walker and Arthur Bell in the 19th century, pure malt whisky became the privilege of a small band of cognoscenti. Recently there has been increasing interest – **but most bottlings of single malts are not at original strength**, and are restricted to specific ages. Only occasionally has the connoisseur been able to obtain bottling of cask strength malt whiskies – unchilled, unfiltered, and undiluted. Now Scotch whisky can again be savoured in its purest form.*

EXCLUSIVE AND RARE

The Whisky Connoisseur will supply you as a member with the finest and rarest of malt whiskies – exclusive bottlings of single casks numbered and dated. And at their original strength. All too often these have been blended, denying the connoisseur the chance to enjoy their unique flavours. Now you can obtain them for yourself.

You will also discover difficult to find blends, and some exceedingly fine miniature drams. Vintage whiskies appear, some from distilleries long closed. With the world record for a bottle of whisky recently topping $47,000, who knows what gems you will find! If you love fine whisky, enjoy entertaining, or just fancy an occasional treat, join the Whisky Connoisseur Club and indulge your taste buds with the fruit of the world's finest distilleries.

A NOSE FOR A DRAM

*The tasting panel includes a master blender – former production director of one of Scotland's leading whisky companies, and a group of distinguished people whose expertise and 'nose' for fine whisky – allows them to select only the finest drams for members of **The Whisky Connoisseur**.*

OF PUBS AND LAWYERS

*The Club's founder is **Arthur J.A. Bell**, author of the best selling **"The Complete Edinburgh Pub Guide"**, an exercise in over 500 tastings carried out whilst a student! He also founded **The Scottish Gourmet** in 1977, Britain's top dining-by-post club, shipping thousands of orders monthly.*

A few years ago, he was at the centre of a famous court battle with Guinness, owners of Arthur Bell & Sons PLC, over the use of his name. It was upheld that "a man has the right to trade under his own name" – and, as he has done for almost 20 years, Arthur J.A. Bell continues to offer his customers and friends outstanding whiskies.

Your invitation to join a new club . . . and enjoy a complimentary dram!

HOW THE CLUB WORKS

*Regular programmes offer you a wide choice of different bottlings of whisky, with tasting notes. These include rare Highland or Island malts – matured at the distillery for many years before bottling at cask strength. To cover administration costs, a small annual membership fee is necessary. However, we believe you will find it exceptional value for money at the special 25% discount rate for readers of **The Times**, and in the unlikely event of your dissatisfaction, your fee will be returned in full. You are under no obligation to purchase, and privacy is assured.*

YOU CAN ENJOY MEMBERSHIP

*One-year **membership** costs £10*, and on joining you receive: ★A cask-strength (91.3° Proof) Islay dram, ★'Whisky Compass' tasting guide to Scotch whisky, and ★newsletter updates and regular special offers. **Five-year membership** costs £30*, and additionally you receive ★a set of four more malt miniatures plus ★a distilleries map. **Lifetime Membership** is just £50*, and you receive a further gift of ★a genuine whisky nosing glass.*

**But you don't need to pay the full membership prices . . .*



Fill in the form today – and begin to enjoy this superb new service at 25% discount for readers of 'The Times'

Arthur J.A. Bell's **THE WHISKY CONNOISSEUR**
Thistle Mill, Biggar ML12 6LP.
Telephone 0899 21268.
Fax 0899 20456

PRIVILEGE DISCOUNT APPLICATION

To: Arthur JA Bell, The Whisky Connoisseur, Biggar ML12 6LP, Scotland.

*Dear Mr. Bell, please accept my application for Membership of The Whisky Connoisseur for *One year at £10 £7.50 or *Five years at £30 £25 or *Lifetime at £50 £37.50 (*delete as applicable – this includes my discount as a reader of The Times). I look forward to receiving my membership gifts, and understand that, if not satisfied, my membership is refundable.*

☐ *I enclose cheque* or ☐ *Please charge my credit card*

Name/
Title
(BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)
Address
Post Code
Credit Card No *Expiry Date*
(if applicable)
Signature



Action plan for bargain hunters

Pack your survival kit and head for the shops with **Nicole Swengley's** store by store guide to the best of the sales around the country

LONDON STORES

☐ **Arding & Hobbs**
Clapham Junction, SW11 (071-228 8877). Dec 27 onwards.
Selected linens, cookware, electrical and china reduced by at least 50 per cent. Fashion bargains include Jacques Vert printed blouse reduced from £69 to £34.50.

☐ **Debenhams**
Oxford Street, W1 (071-580 3000) and branches. Dec 27 onwards (Dec 26 in Scotland, closed Jan 1).
Big "Early Bird" discounts on first day of sale, 8.30am-10am in England and Wales, 10am-11.30am in Scotland.

☐ **Fenwick**
New Bond Street (071-629 9161). Dec 27 for three weeks.
30 per cent off designer fashions including Nicole Farhi, Paul Costelloe, Jasper Conran, Mani, Georges Rech, Joseph, Cerruti, Artwork, KL, Jean Muir Studio. Up to 30 per cent discount on French Connection, OuiSet, Betty Barclay and Mondi. 30 per cent reductions on accessories and 50 per cent off leather handbags.

☐ **Harrods**
Knightsbridge, SW1 (071-730 1234). Jan 5-29.
10 per cent discount day for Harrod's account holders on Jan 8; shoppers spending £200 in a single transaction over first four days of sale can enter competition to win a Range Rover Vogue. Sale preview day for furniture, radio and TV and kitchen appliances on Jan 1. Ladies' long winter coats reduced from £299 to £199, Johnstons of Elgin cashmere twinsets from £504 to £294. Men's silk ties, suits, coats and shirts greatly reduced, including Harrod's blazers from £225 to £150. 40 per cent off David Charles, Jean Bourget, Newman, Fairbanks, Belart, Ikks and Ozona collections for children. 25 per cent off all pocket sprung beds and 30 per cent off Michael Tyler and RS Stevens sofas and chairs. Hoover V5132 vacuum cleaner reduced from £219.99 to £119.99, Neff 6145 microwave from £388 to £169. Many half-price reductions in linens, oriental rugs, sterling silver cutlery.

☐ **Harvey Nichols**
Knightsbridge, SW1 (071-235 5000). Dec 29 for three weeks.
25-50 per cent reductions on selected items throughout the store. Extra 10 per cent off on first four days of sale for account customers.

☐ **House of Fraser Stores**
Army & Navy, Victoria Street, SW1 (071-834 1234); Barkers, Kensington High Street, W8 (071-937 5432); Dickens & Jones, Regent Street, W1 (071-734 7070), D.H. Evans, Oxford Street, W1 (071-629 8800). Dec 27-end Jan.
Half-price House of Fraser coats including blazers reduced from £79.99 to £39.99. Osman plain dyed hand towels reduced from £9.99 to £4.99, bath sheet from £27.99 to £13.99. Selected Sheridan bedlinen set of duvet cover and pillowcase from £42.98 to £28.50, Deauville stripe bedlinen single duvet cover from £17.99 to £13.49. Tefal Ultrabase Chantelle non-stick cookware reduced, including 18cm saucepan with lid from £27.99 to £15.99. Kitchen Devil polyethylene chopping board with kitchen knife, medium size, from £9.99 to £4.99.

☐ **John Lewis**
Oxford Street, W1 (071-629 7711) and Brent Cross Shopping Centre (081-202 6535). Dec 29-Jan 8 (closed Jan 3).
Wide selection of bedlinens, towels and other selected household linens generously reduced. Many other reductions in china and glassware. Also ladies' fashion, men's and children's wear.

☐ **Liberty**
Regent Street, London W1 (071-734 1234). Dec 28-end Jan.
10-50 per cent off selected rugs, carpets and kilims. Set of six French-style stained beech chairs from £795 to £295; Compton sofa in blue indigo cotton from £1,995 to £975; set of six revival oak arts & crafts chairs from £2,650 to £1,750; 20in amphora vase from £79 to £49; Cherrywood framed mirror from £45 to £22.50; wrought-iron candlesticks



from £35 to £17.50. Up to 50 per cent reductions in The Bath House including L'Occitaine fine soap from £1.95 to £1. Fifty per cent off assorted Kenzo towels and Givenchy towels; a third off Descamps towels. Set of four espresso cups and saucers from £9.95 to £6.50; Melior eight-cup coffee filter from £38 to £24.95; Graves kettle from £85 to £65. Up to half-price reductions on linen, including Robert Le Heros double duvet cover from £78.95 to £39.45, matching pillowcase, £14.95 to £7.45; Ralph Lauren Katia fitted double sheet reduced from £31 to £17.95; bear paw patchwork quilt, 90in x 100in, £190 to £120. Catherine Rayner wild silk full skirt wedding dress £985 to £350. Italian 140cm wool and silk shawl, £79 to £39.95.

☐ **Peter Jones**
Sloan Square, SW1 (071-730 3434). Dec 29-Jan 8 (closed Jan 3).
Substantial bargains in glass and china; bed and table linen and towels also reduced.

☐ **Selfridges**
Oxford Street, W1 (071-629 1234). Dec 27 onwards.
Half-price reductions on selected Betty Jackson items and 30 per cent off selected DKNY, Calvin Klein and Jasper Conran lines; assorted Cerruti and Selfriges own-label hosiery reduced by half. Men's selected leather jackets and blousons reduced from £399 to £199; TSE cashmere selected lines and selected wool blazers at half price. Large Collins & Hayes Coriander sofa reduced from £1,499 to £979, Myers 4ft 6in four-drawer divan set from £599 to £299, Thomas china Aida Azur range reduced by half.

OUT OF TOWN STORES

☐ **Allders**
Basildon (0268 527848), Bromley (081-464 6533), Camberley (0276 692122), Chatham (0634 407377), Croydon (081-681 2577), Hull (0482 24353), Portsmouth (0705 821221), Sutton (081-642 6000), Woking (0483 766488), Eltham (081-850 9911). Dec 27 onwards.



Ariston washing machine reduced from £399.99 to £299.99, Aiwa midi hi-fi system with CD player from £599.99 to £479.99. Savings of 50 per cent or more on selected linens, cookware, electrical goods and china. Many generous reductions in ladies' fashions.

☐ **Beatties**
Victoria Street, Wolverhampton (0902 22311) and branches at Aylesbury (0296 399996), Birkenhead (051-647 6642), Burton-on-Trent (0283 515515), Dudley (0384 459922), Northampton (0604 21111), Solihull (021-705 81111), Sutton Coldfield (021-355 612), Worcester (0905 723456). Dec 29 onwards.
Generous reductions of 25-50 per cent in most departments including women's and men's fashion, children's wear, linens, china, glass, kitchenware and electricals.

☐ **Bentalls**
Kingston-upon-Thames (081-546 1001), Lakeside Thurrock (0708 860077), Ealing (081-567 3040), Worthing (0903 231801), Bracknell (0344 424678), Tonbridge (0732 771177), Tunbridge Wells (0892 525222). Dec 30-Jan 29.
Preview for account customers only Dec 29, 6-9pm. Men's Double Two shirts reduced from £19.95 to £12.95, silk ties from £17.95 to £8.95. Selected ladies' lingerie reduced by half. Good reductions on china and glass with Dartington seconds 50 per cent off. Electrolux fridge/freezer ER3201 reduced from £599 to £499 (Kingston only).

☐ **Demmers**
High Street, Yeovil (0935 74444). Dec 27-Jan 22 (closed Jan 1).
First Avenue ladies' wool and cashmere coat reduced from £119 to £69. Peter England long-sleeved shirts reduced from £24.99 to £14.99. 50 per cent reductions on Dorma Country Diary Classics bedlinen including double quilt cover from £51.99 to £25.99. Ducal Victoria pine dining and bedroom furniture reduced by 20 per cent including three-door dresser from £995 to £795. Fashion brand leaders offered at half price or one-third off include Windsmoor, Eastex, Alexon, Liz Clairborne, Jacques Vert and Wallis.

☐ **House of Fraser**
Bath (Joltys 0225 462811), Cardiff (Howells 0222 231055), Cheltenham (Cavendish House 0242 521300), Darlington (Binns 0325 462606), Edinburgh (Frasers 031-225 2472), Exeter (Dingles 0392 59241), Gateshead Metro Centre (091-493 2424), Glasgow (041-221 3880), Hull (Hammonds 0482 26951), Manchester (Kendalls 061-832 3414). Dec 27-end Jan.
See House of Fraser (London stores) for details.

☐ **Jenners**
8 Princes Street, Edinburgh (031-225 2442). Dec 29-Jan 29 (closed Jan 1 and 2).
Up to half-price reductions on Pringle knitwear for men and Viyella and Rocola shirts; generous reductions for Hugo Boss suits; ladies' knitwear by Pringle and Hodgson reduced by half; selected Antler and Shilton luggage reduced by half. Generous reductions on Villeroy & Bosch, Royal Worcester and Royal Doulton seconds china, oriental rugs and carpets. Many substantial reductions in kitchenware including Prestige and 20 per cent off Le Creuset products.

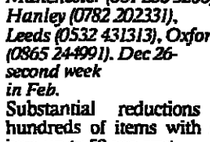
☐ **John Lewis**
Stores at Aberdeen (0224 625000), Bristol (0272 279100), Edinburgh (031-556 9121), High Wycombe Furnishing & Leisure (0494 462666), Kingston (081-547 3000), Milton Keynes (0908 679171), Peterborough (0733 344644) and Welwyn (0707 323456). Also at Bainbridge, Newcastle upon Tyne (091-232 5000), Bonds, Norwich (0603 660021), Caleys, Windsor (0753 863241), Cole Brothers, Sheffield (0742 768511), Heelas, Reading (0734 575955), Jessops, Nottingham (0602 418282), Knight & Lee, Southsea (0705 827511), George Henry Lee, Liverpool (051-709 7070), Robert Sayle, Cambridge (0223 61292), Trewins, Watford (0923 244266). Dec 29-Jan 8 (closed Jan 3); closed Jan 1-4 in Scotland.
Substantial bargains in all departments.

☐ **Lewis's**
Liverpool (051-709 7000), Manchester (061-236 3200), Hanley (0782 202331), Leeds (0532 431313), Oxford (0865 244991). Dec 26-second week in Feb.
Substantial reductions on hundreds of items with savings up to 50 per cent.

☐ **Owen Owen**
Basingstoke (0256 58255), Chester (0244 323112), Coventry (0203 633533), Crawley (0293 545678), Ilford (081-514 7272), Ipswich (0473 286439), Redditch (0527 585000), Slough (0753 526942). Dec 26-second week in Feb.
Reductions of up to 50 per cent on hundreds of items.

☐ **Ricemans**
St George's Lane, Canterbury (0227 766866). Dec 27-Jan 22.
Many generous reductions throughout the store with at least 20 per cent off current season's fashion items.

☐ **Woolworths**
800 stores nationwide. Customer enquiries 071-262 1222. Dec 27-Jan 29.
Many savings throughout the store.



FASHION

☐ **Ally Capellino**
95 Wardour Street, London W1 (071-494 0768). Dec 30-end Jan.
25-30 per cent reductions on Mainline collection and on Hearts of Oak diffusion line, 30 per cent off menswear and mini Capellino.

☐ **Amanda Wakeley**
80 Fulham Road, London SW3 (071-584 4009). Dec 18 onwards.
Reductions of 50 per cent on many items.

☐ **Austin Reed**
103-113 Regent Street, London W1 (071-730 6789) and branches nationwide. Dec 27 for three weeks (City of London shops start Dec 29).
Women's classic camel trousers reduced from £85 to £55, camel double-breasted blazer £185 to £119, camel scoop neck body £25 to £12.50, Pimento check jacket £275 to £175, check skirt £135 to £85, merino wool turtleneck £89 to £59. Men's wool suits reduced from £295 to £225, linen raincoats from £195 to £149, wool jackets £145 to £99, cotton day shirt £35 to £24.95, casual button-down shirt £29.95 to £19.95, silk ties £25 to £12.50. Extra 5 per cent discount for account customers during first three days of sale.

☐ **Aquascutum**
100 Regent Street, London W1 (071-730 6090). Dec 27-end Jan.
Bargains for women including wool overcoats from £370 to £275, wool car coats from £295 to £195, classic trench coats from £395 to £295, wool jackets from £295 to £195 and wool skirts from £125 to £75, double-breasted blazers from £295 to £225. Reductions for men include cashmere coats from £1,220 to £795, classic raincoats £295 to £195, duffle coats £350 to £199, wool trousers £99 to £69.

☐ **Betty Jackson**
311 Brompton Road, London SW3 (071-589 7884). Dec 28 onwards.
Up to 50 per cent off selected winter stock.

☐ **Boots**
Childrenswear stores nationwide. Now onwards.
Reduction of approximately 20 per cent on a wide range of children's clothes for the fives and under. Customer enquiries 0602 495581.



☐ **Burberrys**
18 Haymarket, London SW1 (071-930 3343), 165 Regent Street, London W1 (071-734 4060) and branches. Dec 27 onwards.
Women's classic raincoats reduced from £360 to £195, trenchcoats £450 to £250, waxed jackets £255 to £125, black or navy double-breasted blazers £220 to £170. Bargains for men include classic raincoats from £360 to £195, waxed jackets £225 to £125, polo shirts £42.50 to £19.50, black or navy single-breasted blazers £285 to £150. Accessories include checked cashmere scarves from £85 to £49.50, telescopic umbrellas £59.50 to £39.50 and generous reductions on bags.

☐ **Caroline Charles**
56-57 Beauchamp Place, London SW3 (071-225 3197). Dec 29 onwards.
30 per cent off all winter stock.

☐ **Dorothy Perkins**
550 shops nationwide. Customer enquiries 071-291 2604. Dec 27 for four weeks.
One-third off blouses, casual and formal outerwear, skirts, trousers; knitwear and cotton tops reduced by a third to a half; suits and dresses at half price.

☐ **Alfred Dunhill**
30 Duke Street, St James's, London SW1 (071-499 9566), 5 Sloane Street, London SW1 (071-235 9799). Dec 30-Jan 30.
Reductions include silk ties from £49 to £35 or three for £93, cotton polo shirts £85 to £57 or three for £159, business shirts £69 to £45, sports jackets £395 to £259, cashmere knitwear £259 to £195, casual trousers £95 to £64.

☐ **Edina Ronay**
141 King's Road, London SW3 (071-352 1085) and in Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, London SW1 (071-235 5000). Dec 29 onwards.
At least 25 per cent off sale items, including patterned chenille sweaters from £325 to £225, crepe Seventies jacket £495 to £350, crepe skirts/trousers £225 to £157 and crochet tops £196 to £136.

☐ **Episode**
53 Brompton Road, London SW3 (071-589 5724) and branches. Customer enquiries 071-589 4279. Dec 19 at Brompton Road; Dec 30 at all other branches.
Discounts of 30 per cent off selected autumn and winter merchandise.

☐ **Esprit**
6 Sloane Street, London SW1 (071-245 9139), 165-167 Kensington High Street, London W6 (071-376 0012) and in Whiteleys, Queensway, London W2 (071-229 7436), The Bentall Centre, Kingston, Surrey (081-974 6850), The Glades, Bromley, Kent (081-466 7166) and Fenwick, Brent Cross (081-201 5042). Now onwards.
Wool pea coat reduced from £149 to £99, chunky knit sweaters £59 to £34.99, cool wool suiting blazers £109 to £69 and trousers £59 to £39.99. Many other reductions including up to 50 per cent off casual separates, waistcoats, jodhpurs and accessories.

☐ **Evans**
180 Oxford Street, London W1 (071-636 8040) and branches. Customer enquiries 071-927 3803. Dec 27-Jan 21.
Generous reductions on selected items.

☐ **Leslie Fay**
In D.H. Evans (071-629 8800) and selected Debenhams, House of Fraser and Owen Owen stores nationwide. Sale dates as for stores.
30-50 per cent off many items in dress and sporty collections for day, evening and sports occasions.

☐ **George from Asda**
200 stores nationwide. Customer enquiries 0532-435435. Now onwards.
30-50 per cent off autumn and winter merchandise.

☐ **Georges Rech**
181 Sloane Street, London SW1 (071-235 3343). Dec 29 onwards.
Many substantial reductions.

☐ **Georgina von Etzdof**
149 Sloane Street, London SW1 (071-823 5638) and in Pickett, 41 Burlington Arcade, London W1 (071-493 8939). Jan 5 for approximately one month.
Many reductions from up to 60 per cent including selected robes from £85 to £40, selected waistcoats from £650 to £275, selected chiffon scarves from £85 to £40, selected ties, £10.

☐ **Gieves & Hawkes**
1 Savile Row, London W1 (071-434 2001), 18 Lime Street, London EC3 (071-283 4914) and branches in Bath (0225 463839), Cheltenham (0242 221418), Chester (0244 337576), Edinburgh (031-225 7456), Portsmouth (0705 821351). Dec 27 onwards.
Pure wool suits reduced from £395 to £295, wool blazers £295 to £195, cotton business shirts £59 to £35, silk ties £45 to £20. Selected ranges at less than half price including sports jacket from £295 to £145, wool trousers £125 to £50, leather shoes £185 to £85.

☐ **Graham & Green Clothes Shop**
10 Elgin Crescent, London W11 (071-727 4594). Dec 29 onwards.
Reductions between 20 and 50 per cent on all clothes including Ozbeck, Tehen and Capucine.

☐ **Inca**
45 Elizabeth Street, London SW1 (071-730 7941). Jan 4 onwards.
20 per cent discounts on South American clothing and accessories.

☐ **Jeffrey Rogers**
The Plaza, Oxford Street, London W1 (071-580 5545) and branches. Customer enquiries 071-631 4142. Dec 27 until stocks last.
Half of all stock reduced by 50 per cent or less.

☐ **Katharine Hamnett**
20 Sloane Street, London SW1 (071-823 1002) and 38 Princes Square shopping centre, Glasgow (041-248 3826). Dec 29-mid Jan.
Starting at 30 per cent off selected items with further reductions later into the sale.

☐ **Knickerbox**
600 branches nationwide. Customer enquiries 071-284 1744. Dec 26 onwards.
From 30 per cent off selected autumn/winter range.

☐ **Long Tall Sally**
21 Chiltern Street, London W1 (071-487 3370) and branches. Dec 29-mid Jan.
Great reductions on all winter stock for women 5ft 8in and above.



☐ **Margaret Howell**
29 Beauchamp Place, London SW3 (071-584 2462) and in Liberty, Regent Street, London W1 (071-734 1234). Jan 4 for approx one month (in Liberty, Dec 28).
Reductions 20-30 per cent. Further discounts may be made midway through the sale.

☐ **Maxmara**
32 Sloane Street, London SW1 (071-235 7941) and 153 New Bond Street, W1 (071-491 4748). Jan 4 onwards.
Reductions from 20-40 per cent.

☐ **OuiSet**
35 Brompton Road, London SW3 (071-584 5439) and branches nationwide. Customer enquiries 071-580 0600. Dec 27 onwards.
Selected discounts off autumn/winter merchandise.

☐ **Principles**
Branches nationwide. Customer enquiries 071-927 1443. Dec 27 onwards.
30 per cent reductions on many items.

☐ **Roland Klein**
7-9 Tryon Street, London SW3 (071-823 9179). From Jan 5 for two weeks.
Reductions of 50 per cent off all items.

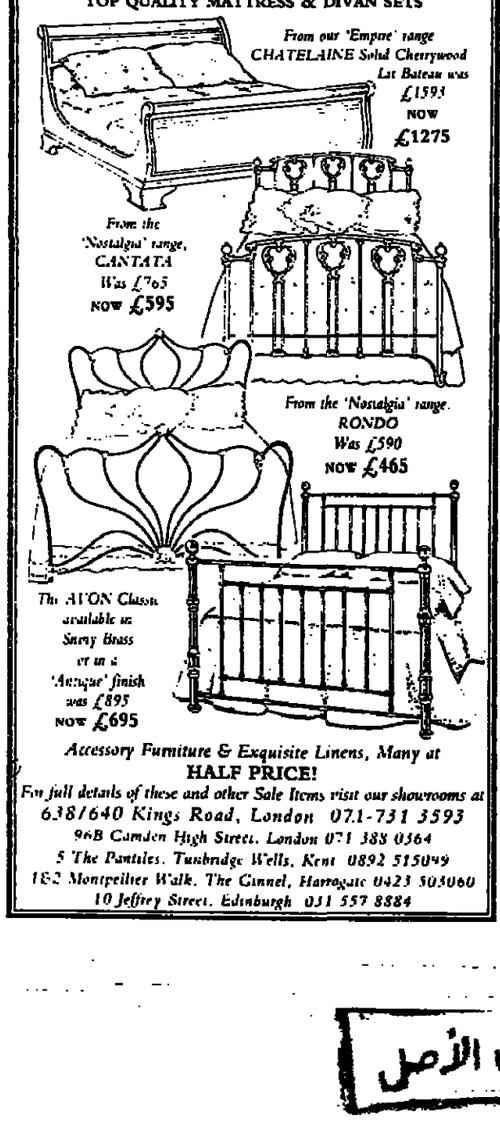
☐ **Scotch House**
2 Brompton Road, London SW1 (071-581 2151), 84-86 Regent Street, London W1 (071-734 0203) and branches. Customer enquiries 071-581 2151. Dec 27 for approx four weeks.
40 per cent off cashmere and lambswool knitwear, including cashmere crewneck sweaters reduced from £140 to £99.50, cashmere gold button cardigans from £195 to £139.



Kilted skirts reduced by approx 40 per cent. Men's lambswool crewneck sweaters reduced from £140 to £99.50, cashmere gold button cardigans from £195 to £139. Kilted skirts reduced by approx 40 per cent. Men's lambswool crewneck sweater from £195 to £139. Reductions on accessories including ladies' cashmere scarves from £39.50 to £25.

☐ **Simpson**
Piccadilly, London W1 (071-734 2002). Dec 27-Jan 29
DAKS bargains for women include blazers reduced from £279 to £139, jackets from £289 to £139, duffle coats from £265 to £129 and culottes from £129 to £59. Pringle lambswool sweaters from £62 to £42 and cashmere sweaters from £137 to £90. For men DAKS suits reduced from £399 to £199, blazers from £299 to £149, jackets from £269 to £134 and trousers from £139 to £69. Cashmere coats from £599 to £399, cotton shirts from £39.95 to £29.95, satin striped pyjamas from £69 to £45. 30 per cent off selected Rayne and Ferragamo shoes for women and Church's shoes for men. Further 10 per cent discount on Jan 1 and Jan 3 for account cardholders.

AND·SO·TO·BED
The Complete Bedroom Shop
SALE
Starts 29th December
Genuine Reductions across our entire range
UP TO 40% OFF
TOP QUALITY MATTRESS & DIVAN SETS



From our 'Empire' range
CHATELAINE Solid Cherrywood
1st Bateau was £1593
NOW £1275
From the 'Nostalgia' range,
CANTATA
Was £765
NOW £595
From the 'Nostalgia' range.
RONDO
Was £590
NOW £465
The AVON Chaise available in Satin Brass or in a 'Antique' finish was £895
NOW £695
Accessory Furniture & Exquisite Linens, Many at HALF PRICE!
For full details of these and other Sale Items visit our showrooms at
638/640 Kings Road, London 071-731 3593
96B Camden High Street, London 071 388 0364
5 The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent 0892 515049
182 Montpellier Walk, The Cornel, Harrogate 0423 503060
10 Jeffrey Street, Edinburgh 031 557 8884

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SARAH MCMENEMY

☐ **Stirling Cooper**
102 Oxford Street, London W1 (071-436 4166) and branches nationwide. Customer enquiries 071-487 3783. Dec 27 onwards.
Many substantial reductions on selected autumn/winter merchandise.

☐ **Susan Woolf**
9-13 Brompton Road, London SW3 (071-584 7047). Dec 20 onwards.
Many substantial reductions.

☐ **Theomiles**
Selfridges (071-629 1234) and selected House of Fraser and Owen Owen stores nationwide. Sale dates as for stores.
Between 30 per cent and 50 per cent reductions on knit and daywear collections.

☐ **Thomas Pink**
85 Jermyn Street, London SW1 and branches. Customer enquiries 071-498 2202. Dec 29-end Jan.
Reductions on all stock.

☐ **Wallis**
215 Oxford Street, London W1 (071-437 0076) and branches. Dec 24 onwards.
Many generous reductions.

☐ **Young England**
47 Elizabeth Street, London SW1 (071-259 9003). Jan 5 onwards.
30 per cent reductions on selected items including Harris-tweed coats. Some items reduced by 50 per cent, including party dresses from £130 to £60.



☐ **Yves St Laurent**
Ladies — 137 New Bond Street, London W1 (071-493 1800), 33 Sloane Street, London SW1 (071-235 6706); men — 135 Bond Street, London W1 (071-493 0405), 33 Sloane Street, London SW1 (071-235 5839). Dec 29 for two weeks
Reductions include panther-print wool dress from £640 to £320, long evening smoking dresses from £1,495 to £745, black chiffon dresses with feathers from £2,525 to £1,260, military-style whipcord suits (jackets and skirts) from £1,650 to £875.

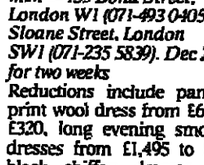
SHOES

☐ **Atticus**
14 Kensington Church Street, London W8 (071-376 0059). Dec 24 onwards.
Many reductions on selected autumn and winter ladies' shoes.

☐ **Charles Jourdan**
39-43 Brompton Road, London SW3 (071-581 3333). Dec 29 onwards.
30 per cent off selected women's and men's shoes.

☐ **Gina Shoes**
42 Sloane Street, London SW1 (071-235 1440). Dec 11 onwards.
Between 35 and 70 per cent off a range of shoes in sizes 3-8 and discounts on sample handbags. Mock-crocodile court shoe reduced from £175 to £99, satin evening shoe with diamanté buckle from £195 to £149.

☐ **Fratelli Rossetti**
177 New Bond Street, London W1 (071-491 7066) and 196 Sloane Street, London SW1 (071-259 6397). Jan 8 for four weeks.



Reductions on many items ranging from 30 to 40 per cent.

☐ **Ravel**
18-188 Oxford Street, London W1 (071-631 4135) and branches nationwide. Customer enquiries 0252 334091. Dec 27 while stocks last.
One third off selected ladies', men's and children's shoes.

☐ **Robert Clergerie**
67 Wigmore Street, London W1 (071-935 3601). Jan 4-end Jan.
Between 30 per cent and 40 per cent reductions.

☐ **Russell & Bromley**
24 New Bond Street, London W1 (071-629 6903) and branches. Dec 23 onwards for ladies' and men's shoes; Jan 11 onwards for handbags.
Reductions at stores nationwide.

☐ **The Small and Tall Shoe Shop**
71 York Street, London W1 (071-723 5321). Jan 6, 7 and 8 for large sizes; Jan 13, 14 and 15 for small sizes.
Reductions on women's footwear in rare and difficult sizes (only very small sizes 13-2½ and very large sizes 8½-11½). Many shoes, boots and sandals reduced by as much as half. Non-sale small sizes available by mail order.

LUGGAGE

☐ **Henry's**
143 Fulham Road, London SW3 (071-581 1321). Dec 30-end Jan.
10-70 per cent discount on handbags, 20-30 per cent off briefcases, up to 30 per cent off luggage.

TOILETRIES

☐ **Floris**
89 Jermyn Street, London SW1 (071-930 2885). Jan 4 for three weeks.
75ml bath essences of Stephanotis, Limes, Edwardian Bouquet reduced from £28.50 to £14.25. Special purchases include three 200ml bottles of Floris bath and shower gel collection at £10.85, three bath soaps for £6.38, three toilet soaps for £3.88 (Jasmine, Ormonde, Limes, Malmasion, Sandalwood and Special No 127).

☐ **James Bodenham**
88 Jermyn Street, London SW1 (071-930 5340). Jan 4 for three weeks.
Collection of five 75ml bottles of bath and shower foam in bluebell, gardenia, rose, apple and grapefruit for £3.95, bag of five 100g grapefruit soaps for £5.25, "Cottage Garden" stationery, scented pillows and clothes hangers all at half price. Many other bargains.



☐ **Penhaligon's**
41 Wellington Street, London WC2 (071-836 2150). Dec 29-Jan 3.
Special reductions on scented books, leather items, Raquets toiletries for men and women.

INTERIORS

☐ **Atrium**
Centrepoint, 22-24 St Giles, High Street, London WC2 (071-379 7288). Jan 4-Feb 5.
Good reductions on furniture, lighting and accessories, including contemporary pieces from Moroso, Cassina, Interlubke, Enea, DeSede, B & B Italia, Lumen Centre, Flos and Artemide.

☐ **Belinda Coote**
Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, London SW1 (071-235 5000). Dec 29 for three weeks.
Generous reductions on selected tapestry cushions, Paisley throws and tapestry wall coverings.

☐ **Colourwash**
65 Fulham High Street, London SW6 (071-371 0911) and 165 Chamberlayne Road, London NW10 (081-459 8918). Dec 29-Jan 12.
Up to 40 per cent off bathroom suites, including Sanitan's "Deco Berkeley" with WC and pedestal basin reduced from £780 to £468, Jacob Delafon cast iron baths from £299 to £194, 20 per cent off Myson heated towel rails, complete brand-name bathroom suites from £599. Free delivery within M25 area.

☐ **The Conran Shop**
81 Fulham Road, London SW3 (071-589 7401). Jan 8-16, including Sundays.
Up to 30 per cent reductions on ex-display upholstery and up to 40 per cent off discontinued ranges of many other items throughout the store.

☐ **Crucial Trading**
77 Westbourne Park Road, London W2 (071-221 9000) and 4 Barnabas Street, London SW1 (071-730 0075). Jan 4-29.
About 25 per cent off normal retail price of natural floor-coverings including coir and sisal Sisool Aran G600, Shetland G601, Guernsey G602 and Fair Isle G603 all reduced to £17.50 per sq yd.

☐ **Descamps**
197 Sloane Street, London SW1 (071-235 6957). Dec 29-end Jan.
Reductions of between 30 and 50 per cent off selected items of bed linen, robes and towels.

☐ **Do-It-All**
Branches nationwide. Dec 24-Jan 27 (closed Jan 1; also Dec 26 in selected branches).



Many reductions including paints, wallpapers, tiles, doors and door furniture.

☐ **S & B Evans & Sons**
7a Ezra Street, London E2 (071-729 6635) Jan 2 only, 9am-1.30pm.
Up to 50 per cent off lion water-fountain, three-tier jug fountain reduced from £195 to £97.50 and clearance sale of all ex-display water features. Bumper sale of seconds of terracotta and glazed garden pots at half price and 40 per cent off clearance items. 10 per cent reductions on all remaining stock and orders taken on the day.

☐ **General Trading Company**
144 Sloane Street, London SW1 (071-730 0411). Jan 12-29.
Between 10 and 50 per cent off sale items, including cotton quilts reduced from £200 to £95, tartan woven place mats from £3.50 to £1, set of eight Castletown table mats from £59.50 to £30 and matching coaster set from £20.50 to £10.

☐ **Glass Distinction**
196 New King's Road, London SW6 (071-731 3460). Jan 3 for four weeks.
Reductions on glass showroom furniture, including dining tables with chairs to match, clocks and shelving. Also fitted bedroom furniture.

☐ **Global Village**
247 Fulham Road, London SW3 (071-376 5363), in Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, London SW1 (071-235 5000), Bath (0225 464017), Bristol (0272 290963), Exeter (03920-412260), South Petherton (0460 41166). Dec 27-Jan 29 at Bath and Exeter; Dec 28-Jan 29 at Fulham Road, London, and Bristol; Dec 29-Jan 29 in Harvey Nichols and at South Petherton.
Up to 30 per cent discount off everything in every shop, for



example, Gothic-style birdcage down from £95 to £50.

☐ **Graham & Green**
4, 7 & 10 Elgin Crescent, London W11 (071-727 4594). Jan 7 onwards.
25 per cent off selected kilims and Ikat fabrics. Burleigh seconds at 40 per cent less than first-quality prices. Special purchase lighting and bed linens.

☐ **Jane Churchill**
135 and 151 Sloane Street, London SW1 (071-730 6379); also in Liberty, Regent Street, London W1 (071-734 1234), 3a Christopher Place, St Albans (0727 860293), 13 Fitzroy Street, Cambridge (0223 323211). Dec 30-Jan 29 (Dec 28 in Liberty).
20 per cent off all wallpapers and borders, 30 per cent off discontinued fabrics, 20 per cent off all orders taken during sale and ex-display models of upholstered furniture and up to 40 per cent off various decorative accessories.

☐ **Jerry's Home Stores**
163-167 Fulham Road, London SW3 (071-225 2246). Dec 29 onwards.
10 per cent off fabrics and upholstery. Generous reductions on selected items throughout the store.

☐ **John Stefanidis**
261 Fulham Road, London SW3 (071-352 3537). Jan 5-31.
20 per cent off all gift items and furniture, including new papier mâché ornaments reduced from £20 to £16 and luxurious thick huckaback towelling bathrobes from £87 to £69.70.

☐ **Les Olivades**
7 Walton Street, London W1 (071-409 2938). Jan 8-29.
Up to £20 off selected fabrics and accessories.

☐ **Meltons**
27 Bruton Place, London W1 (071-409 2938). Jan 10 onwards.
10 per cent discount on all stock of antique and contemporary decorative pieces including quilts, tapestry cushions, watercolours. Up to 40 per cent off painted lampshades and Victorian *papier mâché* boxes.

☐ **Mulberry Hall**
Stonegate, York (0904 620736). Jan 6-29.
Spode Orient design 10-place dinner service reduced from £1,655 to £825, Bernardaud Fruiti Fiori design 12-place dinner service from £2,277 to £1,100, Bernaudaud Metropoles design 8-place dinner service from £2,238 to £1,050, Royal Copenhagen bull figurine from £950 to £475.

☐ **Oggetti**
135 Fulham Road, London SW3 (071-581 8088). Jan 8-29.
10 per cent off all stock with discounts of up to 75 per cent on selected items.

☐ **The Reject Shop**
234 King's Road, London SW3 (071-352 2750) and branches. Dec 26-end Jan.
25 per cent of all stock until Jan 4, then half-price on selected items.

☐ **Robert Stephenson**
1 Elystan Street, London SW3 (071-2255 2343. Jan 15-22.
Own design Aubusson carpet 9ft x 6ft hand-made in India reduced from £1,250 to £795, 12ft x 9ft dark ground needlepoint with bunches of flowers from £4,000 to £2,500. Between 10-30 per cent off Persian rugs and runners. Indian Ikat bedspreads reduced from £68 to £38.

☐ **Thomas Dare**
341 King's Road, London SW3 (071-351 7991). Jan 8 for three weeks.
10-20 per cent reductions on the majority of fabrics and trimmings. All items also available by mail order.

☐ **Villeroy & Boch**
203 Regent Street, London W1 (071-434 0249). Dec 28-end Jan.
Up to 50 per cent off china tableware and crystal stemware. Cutlery reduced by up to 30 per cent. Many reductions in giftware and other clearance lines.

FURNITURE

☐ **The Back Store**
330 King Street, London W6 (081-741 5022). Jan 2-end Jan.
20-30 per cent off selected items and 10 per cent off all stock of ergonomically-designed seating and furniture including desking and writing slopes.

☐ **Habitat**
196 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (071-631 3880); 203 King's Road, London SW3 (071-351 1211) and 37 branches nationwide; customer enquiries 071-255 2545. Dec 28-Jan 23.
Charbury 4ft 6in bed with tufted mattress and two bedside chests reduced from £826 to £649, Boundary 5ft bed and tufted mattress with two Boundary bedside chests from £996 to £799.

☐ **Heal's**
196 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (071-636 1666); Tungate, Guildford (0483 576715). Dec 28 for four weeks; open Sundays except Jan 2 and Jan 23 at Guildford.
Heal's Bourne divan bed 5ft x 6ft 6in reduced from £1,915 to £1,340, Midnight Children's tall chest from £205 to £135, Maplin burr maple/beech occasional table £395 to £295,



Bibisola bookcase from £295 to £195, Taurus large hyacinth leather sofa from £1,425 to £1,095.

☐ **Maples**
145 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (071-387 7000) and 19 stores nationwide. Dec 27 onwards.
Buckingham suite comprising high-back sofa and two chairs in print fabric reduced from £1,999 to £999, Brompton suite with high-back and swan neck arm sofa and two chairs from £2,045 to £1,499.

☐ **Omega Furniture**
Delamere Road, Cheshunt (0992 628494); 21 Old Town, Stevenage (0438 722412). Dec 27-Feb 12.
Up to £500 off showroom models. Free credit.

☐ **Purves & Purves**
83 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (071-580 8223). Dec 28-Jan 29.
Up to 50 per cent off showroom furniture. 10 per cent off all sales over £100.

☐ **Sharps bedrooms**
195 Warwick Road, Kensington, London W14 (inside Sainsbury's Homebase) and 117 showrooms nationwide. Customer enquiries Freephone 0800 789789. Dec 27-end Jan.
Half-price bedroom sale on most popular ranges.

☐ **Simon Horn**
117-121 Wandsworth Bridge Road, London SW6 (071-731 1279). Jan 4-29.
30-50 per cent off selected beds and furniture and standard 15 per cent reduction on divans and mattresses.

ELECTRICAL

☐ **Buyers & Sellers**
120-122 Ladbroke Grove, London W10 (071-229 1947). Dec 29-end Jan.
Hoover gas or electric, white or brown hobs reduced from £175 to £100 including delivery nationwide. Many other reductions.

☐ **Curry's**
Branches nationwide. Dec 26-end Feb.
Significant savings on washing machines, fridges and freezers.

☐ **Dixons**
Branches nationwide. Dec 26-end Jan.
Discounts on many items in the range, and financial packages extended across the main product group.

☐ **Rumbelows**
Branches nationwide. Dec 24-end Feb.
Many good discounts on laundry machines, TV equipment and videos.

KITCHENWARE

☐ **David Mellor**
4 Sloane Square, London SW1 (071-730 4259). Jan 8-22.
20 per cent discount on David Mellor cutlery, 10 per cent off all other stock.

☐ **Divertimenti**
45-47 Wigmore Street, London W1 (071-935 0689), 139-141 Fulham Road, London SW3 (071-581 8065). Jan 15-29.
Selected seconds of Italian Gallina hand-decorated china at 30 per cent off normal prices, for example, dinner plate from £8.50 to £5.95, 30 per cent off Bamboo tableware including large platters from £30 to £21, reductions on Le Creuset cookware including 24cm omelette pan from £28.50 to £19.95, 20cm casserole from £56.20 to £42, 30 per cent off acrylic cruet sets.



☐ **Elizabeth David**
3 North Row, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-836 9167). Dec 29 for six weeks.
Massive reductions of Le Creuset cookware and 10 per cent off all other stock.

LIGHTING

☐ **Artemide**
17-19 Neal Street, London WC1 (071-240 2552). Jan 8-end Jan.
A minimum of 20 per cent off all stock with a significantly larger discount on ex-display, samples and unboxed models of designer lighting.

☐ **London Lighting**
135 Fulham Road, London SW3 (071-589 3612). Jan 8-29.
10 per cent off all stock and discounts of up to 75 per cent on selected items.

☐ **Millet Lighting**
211-213 Baker Street, London NW1 (071-935 0857). Dec 27-end Jan.
75 per cent off light fittings and wall lights. Special offers on selected silk flower arrangements.

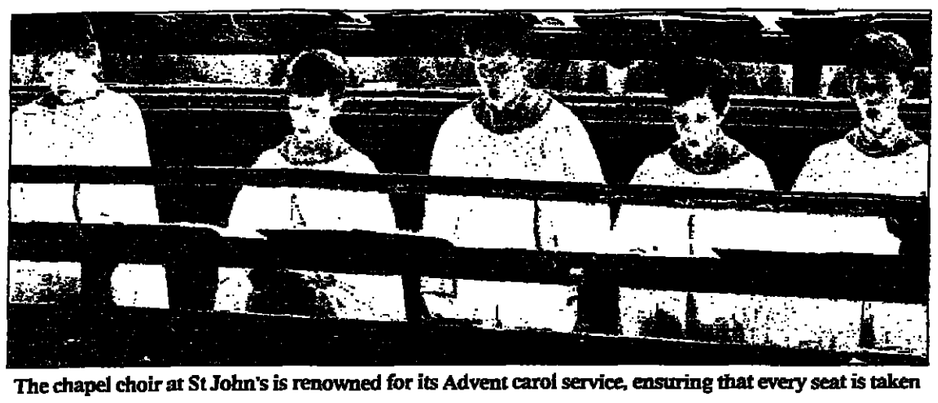
SPORTS GOODS

☐ **Lillywhites**
Piccadilly Circus, London W1 (071-915 4000). Dec 27 for six weeks.
Many generous reductions on stock items.

☐ **Snow & Rock**
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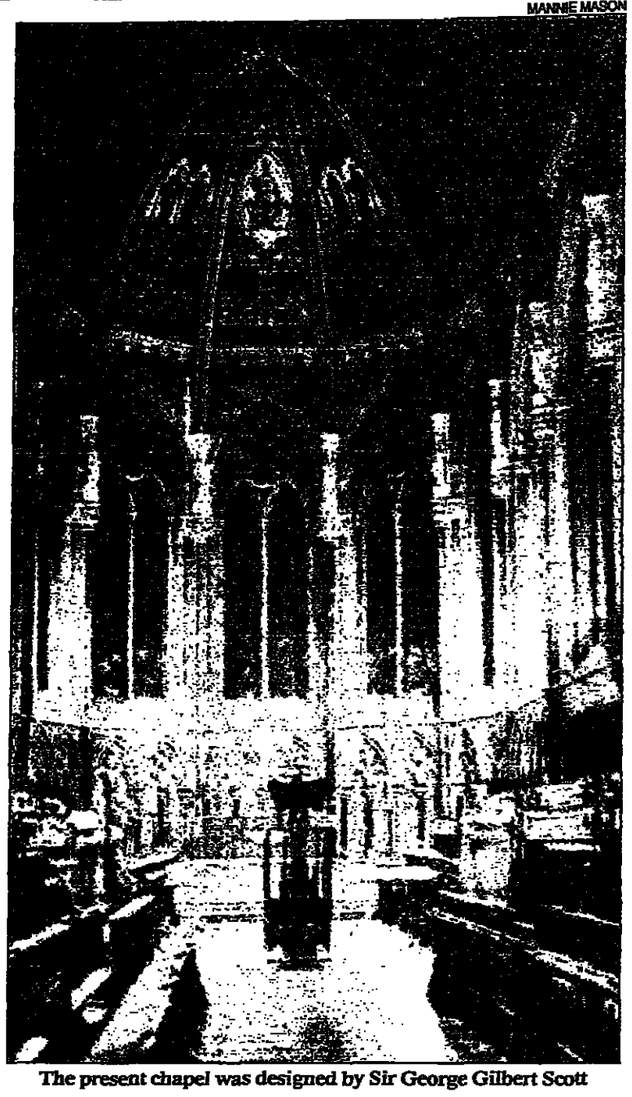
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Ruth Gledhill finds herself inspired by 'that melodious noise' at the chapel of St John's, Cambridge



The chapel choir at St John's is renowned for its Advent carol service, ensuring that every seat is taken

MANNIE MASON



The present chapel was designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott

Mortal harps of golden wires



IN CAMBRIDGE, it is said that those who wish to hear a great concert in an ecclesiastical setting go to King's College Chapel, while those who want worship with great music go to St John's. The chapel choir at St John's is renowed for its Advent carol service, evensong on Ash Wednesday, and its tradition of singing a carol from the top of the college tower on Ascension day.

For our service, the 16 boy choristers and 12 choral students were seated in their stalls, and every seat in the chapel was taken. The choir, directed by the organist, Christopher Robinson, formerly of the Queen's chapel of St George at Windsor Castle, has a strong following in Cambridge. Many worshippers had no obvious link with the university or academic life, but regularly attend services at St John's to enjoy a spiritual and oracular feast. Others there included members of the college, by tradition wearing white surplices.

Seated next to the quire, among the families of the choristers and organ scholars, I found the sound was sensational. "And the cherubic host, in thousand quires/Touch their immortal harps of golden wires," they sang, from John Milton's *Blest Pair of Sirens*, set to music by C.H.H. Parry. "That we on earth with undiscording voice/May rightly answer that melodious noise." The members of the congregation, including my neighbour, Gay Walker, the mother of junior organ scholar Allan, had remarkably melodious voices, as was apparent in the hymns which began and rounded off the service.

In line with 400 years of tradition, the choir, followed by the dean, the Rev Andrew Macintosh, and the chaplain, the Rev George Bush, processed from the entrance at the west end through the nave to the quire before the apsed east end of the chapel.

The chapel organ is at present being rebuilt, and the congregation launched into the first hymn, "My God, how wonderful thou art", accompanied by organ scholar James Martin on a Japanese instrument, its huge speakers concealed behind the altar. The effect was electrifying.

St John's has had a choir since the 1670s, and it has achieved a worldwide reputation through recitals, broadcasts and records.

Although walking through the heavily turreted great gate into the first of three courts felt like stepping into ancient history, St John's is not an old foundation, compared to other Cambridge colleges. It is a Renaissance rather than a medieval body, and has acquired a reputation for scientific and mathematical achievement as well as theology.

THE present chapel, built in 1866-69 by the architect Sir George Gilbert Scott, replaced the chapel of the 13th-century hospital which originally stood on the site. Evensong is sung six days a week during term, with sung eucharist on Sunday mornings. The choristers attend St John's school at the western edge of the college, which has 420 boy and girl pupils.

Even the spoken parts of our service had musical intonations, the rhythmic phraseology of the 1662 *Book of Common Prayer* perfectly at home beneath the Gothic-style arches and the wooden roof intricately decorated with Christian figures through the centuries.

The choristers, in traditional red and white, sat quietly throughout the two lessons, from Jeremiah and St Paul's letter to the Hebrews, urgent messages to each other being passed only through what appeared to be a discreet sign language. In between, in magnificent style, they rendered a perfect "Magnificat", and topped the lessons off with the "Nunc Dimittis".

After the Creed, the Lord's Prayer and three brief prayers, collects for the day, for peace and for help, the choir sang the anthem and we moved into the sermon. Canon Stephen Platten, the guest preacher, is the Archbishop of Canterbury's secretary for ecumenical affairs. He spoke from a stall at the west end of the chapel, an almost indistinguishable speck in the distance, but every word was clearly audible.

Aware of the imminence of Christmas, he spoke of divine and human creativity, the need for mystery and human greed, the "root cause of sin". After prayers and a hymn, members of the college went to dine in hall and the rest of us headed for home. After such a celebration, further nourishment, spiritual or temporal, seemed unnecessary.

● *Sunday services term time only: 10.30am Sung Eucharist, 6.30pm Evensong.*

St John's College Chapel, St John's Street, Cambridge CB2 1TP (0223 338600).

DEAN: The Rev Andrew Macintosh.

SERMON: Canon Stephen Platten, a member of the Archbishop of Canterbury's staff, gave a meditative homily on creativity.★★★

ARCHITECTURE: A stunning 19th-century building in Gothic style, influenced by the Sainte Chapelle in Paris.★★★★★

LITURGY: Satisfying, poetic and traditional evensong from the Church of England *Book of Common Prayer*.★★★★★

MUSIC: Perfect but not overwhelming as a complement to the liturgy from a superb choir of men and boys.★★★★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Nothing in the way of tea or coffee is served, except to college members or those invited to dine in hall.

SPIRITUAL HIGH: Immensely satisfying.★★★★★

★ *Stars are awarded to a maximum of five.*

Carol services

LONDON

☐ **St Martin-in-the-Fields Church** *St Martin's Place, WC2 (071-930 0089)*
Christmas Eve carol service 6.30pm. Midnight mass 11.30pm. Christmas Day carol service 6.30pm.

☐ **St Paul's Cathedral** *EC4 (071-248 2705)*
Christmas Eve carol service and blessing of the crib, 4pm.

☐ **Westminster Abbey** *SW1 (071-222 5152)*
Christmas Eve children's crib service in nave, 12 noon. Service of Christmas carols, 4pm. Mon 27 festival evensong, 3pm. Tues 28, Holy Innocents Day, procession with carols, 3pm.

☐ **Westminster Cathedral** *(RC), Victoria St, SW1 (071-834 7452)*
Christmas Eve carol service, 11.15pm.

ELSEWHERE

☐ **Bristol Cathedral** *College Green, Bristol BS1 (0272 24879)*
Christmas Eve service of nine lessons and carols, 3.30pm.

☐ **Birmingham Cathedral** *Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 (021-236 5535)*
Christmas Eve festival of nine lessons and carols, 5.30pm.

☐ **Canterbury Cathedral** *Canterbury CT1 (0227 762862)*
Christmas Eve carol service, 3pm.

☐ **Chester Cathedral** *Chester CH1 (0244 324756)*
Christmas Eve choral evensong, 4.15pm. Crib service, 5.15pm. Midnight Mass, 11.30pm.

☐ **Christchurch Cathedral** *Oxford OX1 (0865 276162)*
Christmas Eve carol service, 3pm.

☐ **Clifton Cathedral** *(RC), Clifton Park, Bristol BS8 (0272 738411)*
Christmas Eve carol service, 11.30pm.

☐ **Durham Cathedral** *Durham, DH1 3EH (091-386 4266)*
Christmas Eve festival of nine lessons and carols, 3pm.

☐ **Ely Cathedral** *The Gallery, Ely CB7 (0353 667735)*
Christmas Eve procession and carols, 7pm. Christmas Day evensong with carols, 3.45pm. Boxing Day carol service, 3pm.

☐ **Gloucester Cathedral** *Gloucester CL1 (0452 528095)*
Christmas Eve blessing of the crib and carols, 3.30pm. Christmas carols, 6pm. Tickets only.

☐ **Hereford Cathedral** *Hereford HR1 (0432 359880)*
Christmas Eve Shepherd King, family worship for Christmas, 3pm. Christmas Day, choral evensong and procession to crib, 3.30pm. Boxing Day, evensong and carols at crib, 3.30pm.

☐ **King's College Chapel** *King's College, Cambridge CB2 (0223 331100)*
Christmas Eve, festival of nine lessons, 3pm.

☐ **Liverpool Cathedral** *Liverpool L1 (051-709 6271)*
Christmas Eve carols, 3pm. Boxing Day: carols for St Stephen's Day, 3pm.

☐ **Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King** *(RC), Mount Pleasant, Liverpool L3 (051-709 9222)*
Christmas Eve, midnight mass with cathedral choir and orchestra, 12 midnight.

☐ **Llandaff Cathedral** *Llandaff, Cardiff CF5 (0222 564554)*
Christmas Eve, nine lessons and carols, 3.30pm. Queues form 2.30pm.



Heavenly voices

☐ **Manchester Cathedral** *Manchester M3 (061-833 2220)*
Christmas Eve family carols, noon.

☐ **York Minster** *York YO1 (0904 624426)*
Christmas Eve, traditional nine lessons and carols, 4pm.

☐ **St Chad's Cathedral** *(RC), St Chad's Queensway, Birmingham B4 (021-236 2251)*
Christmas Eve, carols followed by midnight mass, 11.30pm. Christmas Day, sung mass, 11am.

☐ **St Mawry's Cathedral** *Palmerston Place, Edinburgh EH12 (031-225 6293)*
Christmas Eve, nine lessons and carols, 7.30pm.

☐ **Truro Cathedral** *Truro, Cornwall TR1 (0872 76782)*
Christmas Eve festival of nine lessons and carols, 7pm.

☐ **Wells Cathedral** *Wells, Somerset BA5 (0749 674483)*
Christmas Eve blessing of the crib, 3.30pm. Boxing Day carol service, 3pm (queues from 2pm).

☐ **Worcester Cathedral** *Dean's Way, Worcester WR1 (0905 28854)*
Christmas Eve carol service 4pm; crib service 6pm. Christmas Day choral evensong with carols, 4pm.

TIM MARSH

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

LADIES

A bright, beautiful Castrian desires ed. faithful n/s gentleman (30-65). My passions: gemology, the arts, Mensa and beliefs, books, travel. Friends, Cheshire/Scotland. Box 6335

ATTRACTIVE woman, graduate, 1401, very arty, sociable, seeks special man, Cheshire (Sharrey). Please Reply to Box No 8349.

BERKS Attractive reflexologist, unencumbered, lively, well travelled, many interests, seeks cultured, compassionate gentleman, 45+, tallish. Photo. Please reply to Box 6323.

BEST special offer this year amazing lady requires fun man to marry her. 40+? Go for it. Please Reply to Box No 8380

DOCTORS divorcee, young 49, very attractive, slim, S/S, cultured, elegant, GSOH, n/s, no ties, prof. own house, seeks gentleman (49-55). Oxford-Anywhere-Will Re location!! Reply to Box No 6334

GLOS. lady, 34, intelligent, attractive, C of E, seeks prof well-ed man 35-40 to share love of music, lit. + evensong. Please Reply to Box No 8332.

I'M 27 attractive & intelligent. You: mature affluent & kind. Aching to be loved & adored & have lots of children.Box 8337

LADY MARY. Lovely, single, 40's, n/s. Seeks respected bachelor.Reply to Box No 8347

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3 RE 30's lively BA's seek bright 30+ male graduates for New Years Eve and evenings out. Please Reply to Box No 8226

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A SINGLE GOURMET Evening Enjoy super dinner parties & meet lots of interesting people. Call Janet 071 243 8699

ATTRACTIVE Artistic gay guy, 36, would liked to be romanced by a caring loving prof man, 36-45. I'm looking for a serious loving relationship. Is there a man out there who could sweep me of mine? Photo please & tel no. Reply to Box No 8338

FED UP stuffing turkey? Broody spring chicken, 33, cooped up in Berkshire, would love to build a nest together with a ravishing rooster who has plenty to crow about. Reply to Box No 8260.

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GENTLEMEN

ATTRACTIVE tall masculine cosmopolitan art and antiques lovING handsome non-smoking tall plump/curvaceous sensual intelligent lady 48-55 for tasteful dining/wining, uncomplicated conversation, laughter and love (West Mid.-South Wales preferred). Please send photo which will be returned. Please Reply to Box No 8327.

ATTRACTIVE creative executive, 40, likes country and city seeks lady 26-39 to share laughter and love. London, Bath, Bristol. Reply to Box No 8246

COMPANY DIRECTOR with international business, handsome, smart, 6'9" in his 30's. Kind, warm, caring with treasure of love seeks connections with loyal, clever feminine, elegant lass below 28, adaptable, intelligent, willing to accompany abroad to devote for special relationship and marriage. Please reply with full photo to Box No 8339

GENTLEMEN

CHESH/LANCS single male, 36, attractive, 5'10", varied interests, caring, considerate, seeks similar lady 30-35 for genuine friendship. Box No 8345

INTELLECTUAL goodlooking man needs beautiful tall partner for dancing, hunks, 30s, 40s, London. Photo plz. Box 8344.

RETIRED Central Londoner, 68. Wide interests. Financially secure, N/s. Francophile, possible migration. Wishes to meet an educated, active, solvent, caring, lady 57-65. Exchange photos. Reply to Box No 8346

RETURD Bork, 40 something male wishing to rhyme June, moon and spoon, is stuck on dejected, neglected and rejected. Is there a paragon who can turn a prosaic 93 into an ecstatic poetic 94? Please Reply to Box No 8341.

GENTLEMEN

SPORTY graduate 40, well travelled and spoken, seeks tall educated lady, under 35 to share affection, values, interests, travel and humour. London based. Letter and photo please to Box No 8280

YOUTHFUL fit 70's man graduate relatively affluent wonders is there caring younger woman/single mother would brighten endpense years housefile travel. Future assured. House etc. Box No 8333

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Which county quiz

In this year's Christmas competition, **Cheryl Taylor** tests your knowledge of England. The winner is invited to spend a week in a listed hall

Here are six pictures of properties for sale in different parts of Britain. The object of the competition is to identify the county (not region) in which each house is situated.

The prize for the first all-correct answer out of the postbag is one week's self-catering holiday (to be taken outside bank holidays and July-August) for two adults at North Lees Hall (below), an outstanding Grade II listed building in the heart of the Peak District National Park.

North Lees Hall, at Hathersage in Derbyshire, has been restored by the Vivat Trust, a non-profit-making preservation group. The hall was built in 1590 by the architect Robert Smythson, and the Eyre family lived there between 1750 and 1882. Charlotte Brontë visited in 1845, and the house is believed to be the inspiration for "Thornfield Hall", the home of Mr Rochester in her novel *Jane Eyre*.

Entries should be sent to *The Times* Property Competition, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN, to arrive not later than January 6 1994. Employees and families of Times Newspapers Ltd., and UK estate agents are excluded from entering this competition. Times competition rules apply. Answers, winners' names and a list of the estate agents will be published on Saturday January 15, 1994.











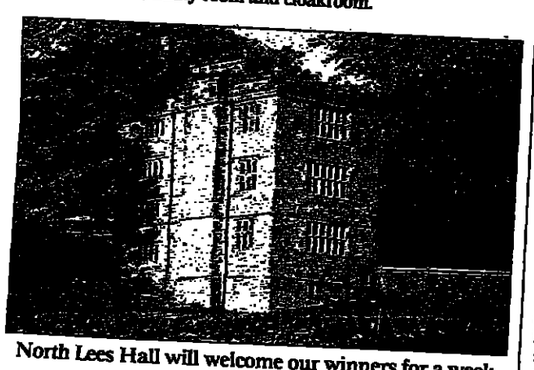


1

Located in a historic village, in the loop of a well-known salmon river, dominated by a spectacular 12th-century castle near a coastline bristling with castles, this substantial stone-built Victorian house is for sale at £285,000. It has four bedrooms, two bathrooms (one en suite), reception hall, drawing-room, dining-room, luxury fitted kitchen and breakfast-room. There are landscaped gardens with river frontage, heated outdoor swimming pool and a double garage. Giant leeks are cultivated here. Other well-known local delicacies include kippers, stotty cake and "singin' hinnies".

2

For £150,000, you can buy this traditional Grade II listed farmhouse and attached outbuildings, within a national park which boasts the highest pub in Britain (1,732ft above sea level). Famous vet drinks here. Built in local stone under a slate roof, the 300-year-old property has been fully restored retaining exposed beams, flagstone floors and mullioned windows. It has two bedrooms, bathroom, two reception rooms, kitchen, utility room and cloakroom.



North Lees Hall will welcome our winners for a week

3

You can buy a pair of cottages for the price of one (£190,000) in this county, which has some of the most beautiful coastal scenery in Britain, ranging from long sandy beaches to limestone coves and the longest shingle bank in Europe. Swans breed here, far from the madding crowd. The property was converted into a single dwelling and improved five years ago. It comprises six bedrooms, two bathrooms, shower-room, reception hall, drawing-room, sitting-room, dining-room, kitchen/breakfast-room, utility-room, cloakroom and three attic rooms. There is also a garage and an enclosed garden.

4

Not far from a coastal town famous for its crabs, in a broad land which boasts the bluest skies and the lowest rainfall in Britain, you can buy this Grade II listed 17th-century manor house in need of renovation for £125,000. Built of flint and brick under a traditional thatched roof, it has six bedrooms, two bathrooms, four reception rooms, kitchen and extensive attic rooms. The price includes a range of outbuildings and a third of an acre of land.

5

Situated in border country, well known for its beef cattle and cider apples, this typical black and white timbered cottage in a third of an acre of garden can be yours for £129,000. It has two bedrooms, a bathroom, lounge/dining-room (with exposed beams and inglenook fireplaces), kitchen/ breakfast-room and cloakroom. The price includes a detached purpose-built snooker room and a stone outbuilding.

6

Near a hill town of medieval appearance, rising out of the surrounding flat marshlands once submerged by the sea, you can buy this typical character cottage, with its horizontally lapped whitewashed clapboards and well-stocked garden, for £92,000. It has three bedrooms and a large attic room, two bathrooms, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen and utility-room. Local coastal towns are noted for their sea-bathing and a famous battle.

Prints of a period

Victorian and pre-Raphaelite engravings are enjoying a popularity boom

Not so very long ago, all things Victorian were deemed to be in irreparably bad taste. Enthusiastic admirers of Victorian art and architecture, such as Sir John Betjeman and Evelyn Waugh, were regarded as eccentrics. But, as we approach the centenary of Queen Victoria's death, Victorian art is eagerly sought. One field ignored by most print collectors until recently is that of Victorian and pre-Raphaelite engravings.

Christie's and Sothebys do not have print sales devoted to this genre, but engravings are beginning to creep into their Victorian picture sales, and it cannot be long now before the engravings are the subject of their own specialist auctions.

"Victorian engravings represented everything that was dreary, dull and old-fashioned to people of my parents' generation," says 33-year-old Nick Bryant, a keen collector for the past ten years. "Some people find them too sentimental, but I think there is something ridiculously romantic about them. I also buy watercolours, but not with the same enthusiasm. Engravings have fantastic textures and details and extraordinary depth of field."

Mr Bryant bought his first engraving after Sir John Everett Millais (1829-1896) for less than £100. Now a rare example by a sought-after artist can fetch as much as £12,000. But it is still possible to find engravings for less than £200 at Bermondsey's famous antique market, held every Friday. "Go as early as possible, about 6am," says Mr Bryant, who recently picked up an engraving of *Love Locked Out* for £150 at the crack of dawn. "Also go intermittently, otherwise you see the same old stuff."

People now have a clear idea of what is valuable, so luck plays a large part in what you find. Country auction rooms are another good source and, for those with the patience, the stacks of pictures that litter the floor of every good junk shop. "If you can't be bothered to sift through the piles, you miss something," Mr Bryant says.

Another good source is the Maas Gallery. Established in the early 1960s by Jeremy Maas, it was the first commercial gallery devoted to Victorian paintings. Now run by his son, Rupert, the gallery is known for its exhibitions of Victorian engravings, when its interior resembles a Victorian print shop, with myriad prints whose subjects range from stylised Victorian beauties to William Powell Frith's scenes. Most of the engravings in the current exhibition are priced at less than £1,000 with a few exceptions, notably the four languid engravings after Sir Edward Burne-Jones of *The Legend of the Briar Rose*.



Nick Bryant with *Spring Etching* by Abel Mignon

"The fashion for Victorian engravings has come full circle," says Rupert Maas. "Victorian artists were interested in effect and morality. Their subject matter made art very popular as the pictures could be understood by anybody, from a dustman to a duke." Just as the rising middle classes of the 19th century could not afford to buy original works of art, which even then were often several thousands of pounds in the auction rooms, so an engraving, very often signed by the artist himself, was and still is an attractive alternative.

AMICIA DE MOUBRAY

● *Most of the specialist dealers are in London. Among the leading dealers are: The Maas Gallery, 15A Clifford Street, W1 (071-734 2302); Norman Blackburn, 32 Ledbury Road, W11 (071-229 5316); Grosvenor Prints, 28-32 Shelton Street, WC2 (071-836 1979); Malcome Innes Gallery, 172 Walton Street, SW3 (071-584 0575).*

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A sculptor's hand in a stony land

In the second exclusive extract from her book, **Vivian Russell** visits the Lubéron

Step through the door of La Louve and in an instant you have the essence of the Lubéron in what feels like a rather exotic quarry. The rough walls have been chiselled from golden rock; the pervasive smell of lavender fills the air; and under your feet lies a floor of loose, smooth stones.

Indifferent to the acquisitive pursuits of a plantsman or the introduction of exotica; completely uninterested, in fact, in growing flowers, this is a purist's garden: a sober architectural world of hewn rock, of sculpted greens and greys, a textured tableau of aromatics and stones, or of plants that can be made to look like stones; a stylised distillation of the Lubéron landscape, where shape and volume are fashioned by the hand that wields the secateurs and garden shears. Box and yew have been released from the rank and file of the parterre, and rosemary, santolina, myrtle and lonicera plucked from the anonymity of the *garrigue*, clipped into mounds, and made to look distinctive.

It is a garden which hugs the earth: the work of a man, one would think, perhaps an architect or a sculptor. But occasional incongruities appear: a purple allium, a few orange gaillardias, a scarlet hybrid tea. It is said that when you garden like a man, you are ruthless with your plants, but here those plants that seed themselves, or are gifts from friends, are allowed to stay.

Both house and garden have been devised as a practical and aesthetic response to the challenges and requirements of Nicole de Vésian's life, always with wit and flair — because otherwise, as she says, why do it at all? Nicole's father was a Welsh banker; her mother came from Avignon. She was brought up in Paris by an English nanny with her three extremely handsome, capable and much admired brothers.

Her present garden style stems from a former home in Port Grimaud, a clever pastiche of Venice and one of very few architecturally successful large-scale "developments" on the Riviera. When she bought the house in Port Grimaud, lured south in search of the sun, she was raising five children with the help of a *demoiselle* and had started her own marketing consultancy firm in Paris to support both her family and a chronically unwell husband. Time was of the essence — and so was money. "We had to fight to get things, or invent them and give them punch."

The house was right on the beach and she immediately started planting to make it attractive. Rising at six, she went to the mountains to collect stones and dig up cistus, rosemary, juniper and lavender. "It was a struggle to get things to grow, so I learnt to grow things that wanted to grow, and every time I left, I cut back the lavenders and the rosemaries *d mort*." She protected their roots with stones against the scorching sun, the wind and sea spray, so on her return she found the garden more or less as she had left it. "That is what gave me the taste for pruning and clipping." It was simple, it looked good, and it suited Nicole's character and lifestyle.

But as Port Grimaud became more fashionable and more crowded, and the children no longer wanted to come, she began visiting her cousins in Aix.

In this way she discovered the Lubéron. Attracted and intrigued by its wildness, she explored the region, one day discovering an old chapel with a tiny garden in Bonnieux — and bought it almost as a lark. "*Je me suis prise au jeu*. Everyone said I was crazy." Finding that plants seemed to grow easily, she filled her garden with red oleanders and geraniums. Then one day it seemed out of place, incongruous. "I've created *un jardin de blanchisseuse*, it's so clumsy, so showy. So I gave the plants away and started again." The hard winter of 1985 helped — by finishing the rest off. "I always think we are too encumbered in life, and my way of coping has always been to simplify. When I came home I wanted calm. It shocks people I have no flowers in my garden, nothing on the walls either. I've got my paintings through the windows. I don't need the paintings and chintzes of others. At the beginning I shocked the nurserymen by wanting beige oleanders and beige roses and geraniums. They'd ring each other up and say, 'Have you seen this *folle* who's looking for beige plants?' "

When Nicole first saw La Louve, in the same village as her converted chapel, it had lain an abandoned ruin for many years. The garden was much larger, and at first it was the stones which fascinated her and she just wanted to buy the garden and the stones.

"There was a lot of box, so I thought there must be water. The vendor said there wasn't. There must be a *bassin*? You're dreaming of castles, he said." But Nicole came back one night with rubber gloves, secateurs and a lamp. She was certain there was a well somewhere and, scratching around in the dark, she found it.

Before buying La Louve, she asked if she could get to know the garden for a summer, and began by treating everything that was treatable: the few plants that were already there. "It allowed me to *vivre le jardin*. I cut, pruned, clipped, fed, watered and had good results, but didn't really know where I was going." People have a tendency to plan gardens standing up, but it's when you are sitting down that you look at it most. She made windows in the foliage to frame the views. She bought it by doing designing stints for Hermès — perhaps styling the inside of Jane Birkin's car, or a private aircraft.

People say you can't start a garden after the age of 40. Nicole was 70. She would return each time from Paris with a fresh eye, so the garden came together bit by bit.

José, a French-speaking Spanish mason, helped enormously. "To simple people," she says, "nothing seems impossible. Only more sophisticated people always think of problems."

Seasonal plants are dismissed. "I don't like to see flowers and then afterwards, nothing." The garden is filled with stones, trees and plants collected from the surrounding hills by Nicole herself. "I don't want to have too tight a rein on the garden," she says. "Graphic and balanced certainly, but a bit mad as well." Some lavenders she crops tightly, while others, as a counterpoint, she leaves shaggy. Her beloved stones are placed all over the garden, but never fixed, because she might suddenly want to change them. As original as Nicole herself is this garden of moveable stones and steadfast plants.

© 1993 Vivian Russell. Edited extract from Gardens of the Riviera by Vivian Russell (Little, Brown £25).

VIVIAN RUSSELL



Nicole de Vésian's garden in the Lubéron — "graphic and balanced certainly, but a bit mad as well"

Garden jottings for the record

A garden journal is more than a notebook — it is a gift to posterity

THE garden notebook is as essential a tool as a spade or hoe: it functions as an *aide memoire* for recurrent jobs such as pruning and planting dates, and locations of special plants. It is a private place to confront woes and celebrate triumphs. I keep my notes in a plain hardback book, but there are several more decorative options, including one from the Royal Horticultural Society, illustrated with exquisitely realistic paintings from an unpublished Dutch florilegium of the early 17th century. It could be used as an ordinary diary or garden notebook, but *The Garden Book*, with photographs by Clive Nichols, is subdivided into special categories for particular garden activities and records.

While I approve of purpose-designed garden journals I have to admit that I have never yet managed to keep one. The problem is that gardeners are so idiosyncratic in their behaviour that it is virtually impossible to allocate the space to please everyone. This is not a new problem: a journal-notebook was designed two and half centuries ago for the naturalist and gardener Gilbert White, in which he recorded plant, animal, wind and barometric observations in and around his home in Selborne in Hampshire. It was obviously just what he needed in the first few years but after a while, even somebody as ordered and succinct as White spills over the lines from one day into the next, and extra sheets of paper are neatly interleaved to cope with long entries.

I have to confess that I find the behind-the-scenes garden records, such as journals and letters, more compelling in some ways than writing intended for publication. It is gardening at the rockface, unornamented and unameliorated. Gilbert White's journals are conserved in the British Museum and they taught me more about gardening in his period than anything else I have ever read.

My abiding impression is not however, of the differences but of the similarity between gardens in any age. The weather of the second half of the late 18th century is quite as capricious as our own: one Christmas there were boys out in shirtsleeves, and in 1772, nasturtiums bloomed almost up to Christmas Day. Another year, it was cold enough to freeze the water in glasses in bedrooms.

Rereading these journals made me realise how gappy my own were. I remember walking out into the crisp, clear, snow-covered garden one December 24, just in time to see a woodcock flying off, but which year it was and what plants then lurked beneath the snow and what befell them, I cannot recall, although I could tell you that the frosty Christmas Eve of 1792 found White covering the globe artichokes, rhubarb, yucca and winter lettuces with straw and leaf litter to protect them from the cold.

FRANCESCA GREENOAK

● RHS Diary 1994 *(Frances Lincoln, £9.99)*; The Garden Book: A Record of the Gardener's Year *by Clive Nichols (Studio Designs £8.99). Gilbert White's house and garden at Selborne, Hampshire, is open March-October (0420 551275).*

WEEKEND TIPS

- *Regularly check recently planted trees and shrubs, firm the soil at the base and inspect stakes and ties.*
- *Protect broccoli and cauliflower hearts by bending the nearest leaves over them.*
- *Dig in compost and manure in borders and vegetables plots.*
- *Do not overwater plants in cool greenhouses or frames.*

For those fractious times when the festive thrill has palled, **Jessica Gorst Williams** presents a round-up of children's Christmas events nationwide

ADVERTISING ARCHIVES



GREATER LONDON

☐ **Science Museum, holiday activities:** Workshops for children of all ages on toy-making.
Science Museum, Exhibition Road, SW7 (071-938 8080 or 8008). Dec 27-31; phone for details of times and events. Workshops free. Entry to museum £4 adults, £2.10 children aged five to 15; under fives and registered disabled free.

☐ **Dickens' Christmas World:** Exhibition including performances of *A Christmas Carol* lasting one hour and 15 minutes. For ages five and up.
Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood, Cambridge Heath Road, E2 (081-980 3204). Dec 27-30, 10am-5.50pm. Free. Tickets for performances of A Christmas Carol *available 30 minutes before performances (3pm each day, not Dec 27) or book in advance.*

☐ **150 Years of the Christmas Card:** Exhibition including Christmas card competition for children and adults. Postman Pat will be in attendance to encourage young artists, Dec 29, 2-4pm.
Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington, SW7 (071-938 8500). Dec 27, 12-5.45pm; 28-31, 10am-5.45pm. Free. Suggested donations for over 12s.

☐ **Craft and costume workshops:** Learn about the culture of the Papua New Guinea highlands. Groups of more than ten people should enquire in advance.
Museum of Mankind, Burlington Gardens, W1 (071-323 8065). Dec 28, 29, from 1.30pm. Free.

☐ **Christmas — a Chinese Perspective:** Listen to Chinese musicians and try Chinese calligraphy. For all ages.
Museum of London, London Wall, EC (071-600 3699). Dec 28, 2-4pm. No booking required except for groups of more than ten. Free after entrance cost: £3 adults, £1.50 children and concessions, free for under fives, £7.50 family ticket.

☐ **Magic Shows:** The "Great Czar" magician reveals the connection between art and magic. Audience participation. For all ages.
National Gallery (Sainsbury Wing Lecture Theatre), Trafalgar Square, WC2 (071-839 3321). Dec 28-31, 3pm. Free (seats cannot be reserved).

☐ **Treasures and Surprises:** Draw, talk and play games to discover hidden treasures in paintings and sculptures. For accompanied children five to 12.
Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1 (071-887 8000). Dec 29, 30, 11am-12.30pm. Free.

☐ **The Cosmic Onion:** Royal Institution Christmas Lectures on science. For ages ten and up. After lectures, a chance to see Michael Faraday's Magnetic Laboratory (4-5pm).
Royal Institution of Great Britain, Albermarle Street, W1 (071-409 2992). Dec 29, 31, 3pm. Non-members: £10 adults, £3 children. Must book.

☐ **Natural History Video Day:** "A coat of many colours — the life of the starling explored" (midday). "Curiosity and the cat — what is there about a lion that makes it so noble" (1pm). "Round robin — robin's eye view of life" (2pm). "The truth about Mrs Tiggywinkle — facts and fiction about hedgehogs" (3pm). Due to popularity admission cannot be guaranteed.
Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, SW7 (071-589 6323). Dec 30, from midday. Free after entry to museum: £4.50 adults, £2.20 children and concessions, free for under fives.

AVON

☐ **NT and RA walk:** Two-hour, four-mile walk through NT farmland set among woods and fields with views over the Bristol Channel. Approx 30 stiles. For ages seven and up (not suitable for pushchairs).
Lower Failand. Meet in Failand Church, Dec 27, 2pm. Free. (Further information, 0225 891364)

☐ **Disco on ice:** Family entertainment from ages three and up.
Bristol Ice Rink, Frogmore Street (0272 292148). Dec 31, 5.30pm-7pm. £2.50 plus 90p skate hire.

BEDFORDSHIRE

☐ **NT and RA walk:** Five-mile circular walk over flat ground. Bring snack for mid-afternoon stop. For ages seven and up (not suitable for pushchairs). Dogs on leads welcome.
Willington. Meet outside Dovecote building, Dec 30, 1.30pm. Free. (Further information, 0494 528051)

BERKSHIRE

☐ **NT and RA walk:** Three-and-a-half-mile walk through parkland and woodland (not suitable for pushchairs).
Basildon. Meet at Basildon Park NT car park, Dec 28, 10.30am. Free. (Further information, 0494 528051)

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

☐ **NT and RA walk:** Four-mile circular walk on public footpaths on NT land and through part of Waddesdon Manor grounds (not suitable for pushchairs). For ages seven and up.
Waddesdon Manor. Meet at car park opposite war memorial in Waddesdon High Street, Dec 28, 10.30am. Free. (Further information, 0494 528051)

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

☐ **Mince Pie Special:** Steam train pulled by the original of Thomas the Tank Engine. Around 320 people drawn in four carriages for an hour and a quarter.
Nene Valley Railway, Wansford Station, Stibbington, Peterborough (0780 782854). Dec 29, midday, 1.15pm and 2.30pm. No booking. £6 adults, £3 children, free for under threes.

CHESHIRE

☐ **NT and RA walk:** Three-mile walk through parkland with deer (not suitable for pushchairs). For all ages.
Dunham Massey Hall. Meet at entrance, Dec 29. 10.30am. Free. (Further information, 0925 763512)

CORNWALL

☐ **NT and RA walk:** Three-mile walk with NT warden. Bring binoculars (not suitable for pushchairs). For ages six and up.
Chyvarloe National Trust Base Camp. Meet at car park, Dec 27, 2pm. Free. (Further information, 0752 842560)

DERBYSHIRE

☐ **Santa specials:** Fifty-minute, steam train, round-trip grotto with presents for children and sherry and mince pies for adults (Dec 26, 27, 11.15am, 12.30pm, 1.55pm and 3.05pm). Friends of Thomas the Tank Engine. Children get present from Fat Controller (Dec 28-31, times as before).
Midland Railway Centre, Butterley Station, Ripley (0773 747674111). Advance bookings accepted. £5.50 adults and children, £3.50 under threes if they want a present.

☐ **NT and RA walk:** Five-mile walk over field footpaths and through grounds of Calke Abbey. Lunch stop at Staff of Life, Ticknall. Ancient woodlands and deer (not suitable for pushchairs). For ages seven and up.
Calke Abbey. Meet at car park in grounds, Dec 27, 10am. Free. (Further information 0530 222897).

DEVON

☐ **NT and RA walk:** Five-mile walk through steep woodland; farmland paths and tracks and into main valley system with views. Ground roughish. For ages ten and up. Dogs on leads.
Arlington Court. Meet at NT main car park, Dec 26, 10.30am. Free. (Details 0271 72850).

DORSET

☐ **Icetrax and Splashdown:** Family discos, 2-4 pm. Games and party atmosphere. Mixed age group.
Icetrax and Splashdown, Tower Park, Poole (0202 716000). Dec 26-30. Entrance £3.50 plus £1 skatehire, £14.50 family ticket for one or two adults and up to three children.

☐ **NT and RA walk:** Easy pace, hilly four-mile walk at Ringmoor village and over NT land. Children's ages at discretion of parents.
Turnworth Farm. Meet at farm. Dec 30, 1.30pm. Free. (Further information, 0985 847777).

EAST SUSSEX

☐ **Santa Special Railway ride, Bluebell Railway:** Santa visits every child with a gift and seasonal greeting. Grown-ups served mince pies. Ten-mile road trip. Decorated stations and coaches.
Sheffield Park Station. Near Uckfield, East Sussex. Dec 26, 27. Ring for times and availability and to book (0825 724114).

ESSEX

☐ **NT and RA walk:** Three-mile walk in the morning and optional three-mile walk in the afternoon through the unique landscape of Hatfield Forest. Level ground which may be muddy. Lunch at Hop Poles pub, Bedlars Green, midday-1pm. For ages seven and up. Dogs under on leads.
Hatfield Forest. Meet at Bush End entrance of the car park, Dec 27, 10.30am. Free. (Further information 0279 870678).

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

☐ **NT and RA walk:** Four to five-mile walk over undulating parkland and farmland, which may have muddy sections. Accompanied children from eight years up. Prefer no dogs.
Sherborne Park Estate. Meet at Ewe Pen Buildings, Dec 30, 10am. Free. (Further information 0451 860 864).

ISLE OF WIGHT

☐ **NT and RA walk:** Four-mile hilly walk over downs and coastline. Accompanied children aged seven and up (not suitable for pushchairs). Dogs on leads welcome.
Compton and Brook. Meet at Compton Chine car park, Dec 31, 10am. Free. (Further information on 0983 403626).

KENT

☐ **Festival of Trees:** An undercover tunnel lined with 20-25 Christmas trees (real and artificial). The trees are lit and decorated with tinkling bells.
Fort Amhurst, Dock Road, Chatham (0634 847747). Dec 26, 10.30am-4.30pm. £2.50 adults, £1.50 children, free for under fives.

☐ **Boat Race:** Two thousand plastic 6in boats race organised by Dover Lions Club; place a bet, win prizes, proceeds to charity.
Dover, from Cherry Tree Avenue to Beaconsfield Road. Dec 26, 11am.

☐ **Snail racing:** Indoors in new, heated playbarn. Admission includes entry to animal farm. Small prizes.
Badsell Park Farm, Crittenden Road, Matfield, Kent (0892 832549). Dec 31, 3pm. £2.50 adults, children £2, free for under threes.

MIDLANDS

☐ **Learn about Peter Pan:** Themed courses on crocodiles, Captain Hook's galleon and Nana. For ages five and up; two-hour sessions.
Midlands Art Centre (MAC), Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham (021-440 3838). Dec 28-31. £3.80 children. Not necessary to pre-book.

NORFOLK

☐ **NT and RA walk:** Four-and-a-half-mile walk, downhill going, uphill coming back. Woodland, historic parkland, coastal cliffs. Climb gazebo if weather fine. For ages 11 and up. Dogs on leads.
Sheringham Park. Meet at main visitors' car park, Dec 27. 10am. Free. (Details. 0263 823778)

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

☐ **Morris dancing and mummers play:** performed by village mummers and local morris dancers.
Stocks Hill, Moulton. Dec 27, 11am-midday. Free, charity collection.

NORTHUMBERLAND

☐ **Allendale Barl Festival:** Watch costumed characters carry flaming barrels and the old year burn out in a blazing bonfire.
Market Square, Allendale. Dec 31, just before midnight. Free. (Space limited).

OXFORDSHIRE

☐ **NT and RA walk:** Five-mile walk through beechwoods and farmland. Could be muddy (not suitable for pushchairs). For ages eight and up.
Greys Court. Meet at car park, Dec 27, 10am. Free. (Further information, 0491 574065)

SOUTH YORKSHIRE

☐ **Thomas the Tank Engine's Great Railway Show:** For all ages. See how Thomas began with original parish magazines in which the stories were first published in 1943 for the Rev Awdry's son, Christopher. Original illustrations. Models of engines. Videos. Colouring competition.
Cusworth Hall, Cusworth Lane, Doncaster (0302 782342). Dec 29-31, 10am-4pm. Free.

SUFFOLK

☐ **Roller skating:** New Year's Eve party for under 13s with games and prizes.
National Roller Skating Centre, Station Hill, Bury St Edmunds (0284 701216). Dec 31, 6-8pm. £1.50 per head, skates included.

SURREY

☐ **Christmas at Hampton Court:** Costumed staff will cook Tudor recipes and preside over revelries and dancing. Dress warmly.
Hampton Court Palace, East Molesey (081-781 9500). Dec 27, 10.15am-4.30pm; Dec 28-31, 9.30am-4.30pm. £6.50 adults, £4.30 children, £19 family ticket.

☐ **NT and RA walk:** Two-mile flat walk to look at nature's New Year's Eve preparations. A walk of discovery. For ages ten and up. Dogs on leads.
Witley Common. Meet at the Information Centre car park, Dec 31, 11am. Free. (Further information, 0428 713532)

WARWICKSHIRE

☐ **NT and RA walk:** Four-mile hilly walk to Sunrising Hill and Middle Tysoe (not suitable for pushchairs). For ages ten and up.
Upton House. Meet at car park, Dec 30 . Free. (Further information, 0608 810283)

WILTSHIRE

☐ **NT and RA's walk:** Meet 10am for four-and-a-half-mile mile walk to West Kennet Long Barrow, Stone Avenue or 2pm for four-mile walk to Windmill Hill. Steady climb, can be windy. For ages nine and up. For those going on both, there will be time for lunch at Avebury village between the two walks.
Avebury. Meet at main car park, Dec 28. 10am and 2pm. Free. (Further information, 0793 831564)

SCOTLAND

CAITHNESS

☐ **Llama trekking:** Suitable for five up. Timings adaptable to groups, but can be five hours including lunch. £10 per llama — a whole family can share a llama. Please give one day's notice.
Kings Park Llama Farm, Berriedale (05935 202). Dec 26-31.

EDINBURGH

☐ **Christmas art competition:** Entrants have to draw something within the museum. Judged in age groups (six and under, seven-nine, 10-12 and 13-16). Book-token prizes will be posted in January. Bring own equipment for drawing or painting. Paper and water provided. Register on arrival.
Royal Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street (031-225 7534). Dec 27-30, 10am-5.00pm. Free

GLASGOW

☐ **Hands-on discovery:** Exhibition about Scotland. Dress in fishwives' costumes, create your own computer-designed tartan, make clinker-built boat, taste traditional foods. Under tens must be accompanied by an adult. No under sixes.
Scotland Street School Museum of Education, Scotland Street (041-429 1202). Dec 29-31, 10-am-5pm (minimum one adult to four children). Free

GRAMPIAN

☐ **Christmas Carnival Indoor Funfair:** Besides standard funfair rides, includes Shark Show, bungee jumping and SAS Army Game.
Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen (0224 824824). Dec 26-31, adults and children 99p for 10.30am-midday session, adults and children £2.99 for noon-5pm and 5-10.30pm session (one-off payment covers all main rides).

WALES

CLWYD

☐ **NT and RA walk:** Four-mile walk through farmland, pasture and woodland. Birds, animals, badger sets. Warden will recall history of the estate (not ideal pushchairs). For ages three and up.
Erddig Country Park. Meet at Yale Hostel, Dec 27, 10am. Free. (Further information. 0978 755406)

GWENT

☐ **Roman games:** Play Roman board games, enter Children's Christmas Competition. Prizes will be drawn on Jan 10 and posted to winners.
Caerleon Roman Legionary Museum, High Street (0633 423134). Dec 27-31, 10am-4.30pm. £1.25 adults, 75p children.

NORTHERN IRELAND

ANTRIM

☐ **850th anniversary celebrations:** The year's events begin with a firework display centred on the Town Hall.
Town Hall, Newry (0693 250 850). Dec 31, 7pm. Free.

BELFAST

☐ **Ulster Museum Christmas quiz:** For all the family , with prizes.
Botanic Gardens (0232 381251). Dec 29-31, 10am-5pm. Free.

● *The National Trust and the Ramblers' Association week of Christmas walks: Children should be accompanied. Suggested ages are only approximate. Weather conditions may make walks unsuitable for children. Sensible footwear such as wellingtons is advisable. Membership of the NT or RA is not necessary.*

● *All information checked at time of going to press but it is always worth ringing before setting off.*

WORD-WATCHING

...with narrowed eyes if your optician say... ...using a needle in your eye, or ... ...tumour or cataract, from the Latin ...

...ation of mythological interpretation wh... ...traditional accounts of real incidents is fun... ...from ... a Sicilian (c. 3... ...that the deities of Hellenic mythology ... ...men, and pretended to cite authentic ...

...state of mind in a group of persons, corre... ...in the individual, collective arrogance, the ... ...governments long in power, from the Latin ... ...racism or fascism of the other luminaries ... ...at times extravagant enough, and amus...

...against the state or government, treas... ...per through, intensive + duellis... ...Walter Scott, Heart of Midlothian 18... ...that this rising to take away the life of a rep... ...little better than perduellion."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MO... ...Kb7+ Kc8 3 Ne7 checkmate

مكبّرة من الأصل

هكذا من الاصل

● *Performance and opening times may vary during the Christmas period so please check with box-offices beforehand.*

FILMS

NEW RELEASES

DESPERATE REMEDIES (15). Airless, exhausting high camp from New Zealand: a period tale of love and deceit. Stewart Main and Peter Wells direct. Opens today.
MGMs: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) **Haymarket** (071-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (071-586 3057) **Warner** (071-439 0791)

KING OF THE HILL (12): Astute and touching memoir of a Depression childhood, directed by Steven Soderbergh from A.E. Hotchner's book. With Jesse Bradford and Jeroen Krabbé. From Dec 26.
Gate (071-727 4043) **MGM Shaftesbury Avenue** (071-836 6279)



Setsuko Hara in Yasujiro Ozu's drama *Late Spring*

LATE SPRING: Moving portrait of a father and his dutiful daughter, from the Japanese master Yasujiro Ozu; made in 1949. Part of an Ozu season. With Setsuko Hara. From Dec 26.
Renoir (071-837 8402)

A PERFECT WORLD (15): Kevin Costner's criminal on the run with a kidnapped child, and Clint Eastwood in pursuit. Thoughtful if overstretched drama. Eastwood also directs. From Dec 26.
Barbican (071-638 8891) **MGMs: Baker Street** (071-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Notting Hill Coronet** (071-727 6705) **Warner** (071-437 4343) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

CURRENT

ADDAMS FAMILY VALUES (PG). A new baby causes chaos in America's most macabre household. Overblown sequel, with good stretches. With Raul Julia, Anjelica Huston; director, Barry Sonnenfeld
Empire (071-497 9999) **MGMs: Baker Street** (071-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Screen/Green** (071-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332)

ALADDIN (U): Disney's brash Arabian cartoon does not match expectations, though Robin Williams's Genie is fun. Directors, John Musker, Ron Clements.
Barbican (071-638 8891) **MGMs: Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Leicester Square** (0426-915683) **Marble Arch** (0426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332)

AMERICAN HEART (15): Father and son hit the Seattle streets. Well-meaning social drama from director Martin Bell stars Jeff Bridges and Edward Furlong.
Odeon Haymarket (0426 915353)

BOUND & GAGGED: A LOVE STORY (18): Muddled comic adventures in search of the characters' better selves. American independent misfire from writer-director Daniel Appleby.
MGM Piccadilly (071-437 3561)

CINEMA PARADISO: THE SPECIAL EDITION (PG): Longer, inferior version of Giuseppe Tornatore's Oscar-winner. With Philippe Noiret and Salvatore Cascio.
Metro (071-437 0757)

DAVE (15): The US President's lookalike takes over. Beguiling comic fantasy, with Kevin Kline, Sigourney Weaver and Ben Kingsley. Ivan Reitman directs
MGMs: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) **Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332)

THE FUGITIVE (12): 1960s television series roars back to life with Harrison Ford as the fugitive trying to clear his name. With Tommy Lee Jones; director, Andrew Davis.
MGMs: Oxford Street (071-636 0310) **Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332) **Warner** (071-437 4343)

THE HAWK (15). Is Helen Mirren's husband Lancashire's serial killer? Modest but powerful domestic thriller, from Peter Ransley's novel. David Hayman directs.
MGMs: Chelsea (071-352 5096) **Haymarket** (071-839 1527)

IN THE LINE OF FIRE (15): Secret Service agent Clint Eastwood fights John Malkovich's psychopath and his own guilt. Sturdy thriller, directed by Wolfgang Petersen.
Odeon Mezzanine (0426 915683)

THE METEOR MAN (PG): Timid Washington teacher turns superhero and cleans up the community. Bland, dishevelled, well-meaning fantasy from writer-director-star Robert Townsend.
Electric (071-792 2020)

NAKED (18): Mike Leigh's excellent, uncomfortable Cannes prizewinner about London's lost souls, with David Thewlis as the amoral drifter who hits the pavements.
MGMs: Haymarket (071-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148)

THE PIANO (15): Jane Campion's magnificent tale of repression and desire in mid-19th century New Zealand. With Holly Hunter and Sam Neill.
Lumiere (071-836 0691)
MGMs: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) **Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148) **Plaza** (071-497 9999) **Screen/Baker** (071-935 2772) **Screen/Hill** (071-435 3366) **Warner** (071-437 4343) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332)

THE REMAINS OF THE DAY (U): Life and lost chances of an English butler. Merchant Ivory's immaculate if chilly account of Kazuo Ishiguro's novel with Anthony Hopkins, Emma Thompson.
Curzons: Mayfair (071-465 8865) **West End** (071-439 4805) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426-914 666) **Swiss Cottage** (071-586 3057)

ROBIN HOOD: MEN IN TIGHTS (PG): Unfunny, outdated Sherwood Forest spoof from Mel Brooks, with Cary Elwes, Roger Rees, Richard Lewis.
MGMs: Chelsea (071-352 5096) **Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **West End** (0426-915 574) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332)

THEATRE

LONDON

AN ABSOLUTE TURKEY: Felicity Kendal plays a harassed wife, Griff Rhys Jones a frantic bachelor, in Peter Hall's production of Feydeau's *Le Dindon*. Inevitable hotel room panics in the second act.
Globe, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5065). Previews from Mon, 7.45pm. Opens Jan 4, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

ANGELS IN AMERICA: Religion, sex, Aids, corrupt politics: a vision of America at the edge of disaster. Tony Kushner's award-winning *Millennium Approaches* is joined by its sequel *Perestroika*.
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). *Millenium*: Mon, 7pm and Wed, 1pm; *Perestroika*: Tues, 7pm and Wed, Thurs, 7pm.

ANORAK OF FIRE: Return of Stephen Dinsdale's hilarious but also touching account of a trainspotter's obsession. James Holmes plays the dedicated hero.
Arts, Great Newport St, WC2 (071-836 2132). Opens Tues, 8pm. Then Tues-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 6pm.

ASPECTS OF LOVE: Andrew Lloyd Webber's has six musicals running concurrently as this one returns for a short revival. Not one of the best however.
Prince of Wales, Coventry St, WC2 (071-839 5972). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. Today, 3pm only. Until Jan 15.

THE BFG: Roald Dahl's Big Friendly Giant makes his now annual call on London.
Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-867 1115). Mon, 7pm; Tues-Fri, 2pm and 7pm; Sat, 11am, 2.30pm, 7pm. Today, 11am and 2.30pm only.

CAROUSEL: Tuneful Rodgers and Hammerstein has the familiar mixture of the perceptive and the maudlin. The sets are clever.
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (071-379 5399). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm. Today, 2.30pm only.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL: Patrick Stewart plays 39 characters in this solo performance of the Dickens tale. Acclaimed on Broadway.
Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (071-928 7616). Preview Tues, 7.30pm. Opens Wed, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm (but not Jan 3): mats Thurs, Jan 1, 4, 6, 8 at 2pm; Jan 2, 4pm. Until Jan 8.



***A Victorian Christmas Circus*: Juliette Hardy (left), Marianne Grove (see Theatre)**

THE EGG: Intriguing revival of Felicien Marceau's comedy (*L'Oeuf*) from the 1950s: can Emile crack the system that looks so smooth and impenetrable — like an egg?
Camden Studio, Offstage Bookshop, Chalk Farm Road, NW1 (071-916 4040). Previews Thurs, Fri, Jan 1 and 3, 8pm. Opens Jan 4, 8pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm. Until Jan 22.

THE GOOD-NATUR'D MAN: This Christmas production means that both Goldsmith comedies are playing in the metropolis. This is the earlier and the plot creates a right tangle.
Orange Tree, Clarence Street, Richmond (081-940 3633). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Sat, 4pm. No perf today, Mon, Tues; Wed, 4pm and 7.45pm; Thurs, 2.30pm and 7.45pm; Fri and Jan 1, 4pm and 7.45pm; closed Jan 3.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS: Stephen Daldry's marvellously re-imagined version of Priestley's social thriller.
Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (071-836 6404). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm; Sat, 5pm and 8.15pm; mat Wed, 2.30pm. No perf Mon.

MACBETH: Derek Jacobi and Cheryl Campbell play the hell-hound and his dame in Adrian Noble's new production.
Barbican, Barbican Centre, EC2 (071-638 8891). Mon-Thurs, 7.15pm; mat Thurs, 2pm.



Derek Jacobi stars as the evil thane in *Macbeth*

ME AND MAMIE O'ROURKE: French and Saunders in wretchedly lightweight US play about lesbian fantasies.
Strand, Aldwych, WC2 (071-930 8800). Mon-Thurs, 8pm; Fri, Sat, 6pm and 8.45pm. No perf today.

PIAF: Elaine Paige in powerful voice as the Parisian sparrow. The play itself is rather less than marvellous.
Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (071-867 1118). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed (Lorraine Brunning) and Sat 3pm. Today, 3pm only.

SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER: Donald Sinden, Miriam Margolyes and David Essex in Peter Hall's revival of the Goldsmith comedy.
Queens, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5041). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm. Today, 3pm only; Tues, 3pm and 7.45pm.

STUPID CUPID: Gay Sweatshop goes back to the 1950s, to the back row of the Peckham Picture Palace, for Phil Willmott's new musical with old songs.
BAC 1, Lavender Hill, Battersea, SW11 (071-223 2223). Preview Wed, 8pm. Opens Thurs, 8pm. Then Tues-Sat, 8pm; Sun 6pm; mats Thurs, Jan 2 and 8, 2pm. Until Jan 16.

SWEENEY TODD: Declan Donnellan's superb staging of Sondheim's subtle, savage musical. Starring Alun Armstrong and Julia McKenzie.
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Mon and Tues, 7.30pm; mat Tues, 2pm.

THE THIRD POLICEMAN: Adapted by Ridiculusmus from Flann O'Brien's weird novel and praised at Edinburgh.
BAC 2, Lavender Hill, Battersea, SW11 (071-223 2223). Opens Wed, 8.30pm. Then Tues-Sat, 8.30pm, Sun 6.30pm. Until Jan 16.

THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA: The sparkle has faded from David Thacker's touring production, now in London.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. Extra mat Dec 30, 3pm. Until Jan 15.

A VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS CIRCUS: Set in 1893, this non-animal extravaganza features jugglers, clowns and trapeze acts.
Blackheath Concert Halls (Great Hall), 23 Lee Road, SE3 (081-463 0100), Sun to Jan 3, 3pm and 7pm.

REGIONAL

BIRMINGHAM: Raymond Briggs' magical Christmas story *The Snowman* is brought to life through music and dance this week. Bill Alexander directs. *Blithe Spirit* returns in rep after the new year.
Repertory Theatre, Centenary Square (021-236 4455). Closed today to Sun. Mon to Jan 1, 4pm and 7pm. Until Jan 29.

BLACKPOOL: A blend of staggering illusion, spine-tingling tension and good-old-fashioned fun is in store with Ken Hill's adaptation of H.G. Wells's classic story *The Invisible Man*.
Grand Theatre, Church Street (0253 28372). Sun, Mon and Wed, 2.30pm and 7.30pm; Thurs, 7.30pm and Fri, 2.30pm. Children half price. Until Jan 8.

BOLTON: Rob Pickavance returns to play Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*: Nick Conway (Billy in *Bread*) plays Bob Cratchit.
Octagon, Howell Croft South (0204-20661). Today, 2pm and 7.30pm; Tues, 7.30pm; Wed and Thurs, 2pm, 7.30pm; New Year's Eve, 7.30pm. Then closed until Jan 4.

SCARBOROUGH: Set in a food warehouse during the night shift, *The End of the Food Chain* is described as "a comedy with a dark chocolate centre". Tim Firth's fourth play for Ayckbourn's theatre.
Stephen Joseph Theatre in the Round (0723 370541). Previewing Tues and Wed, 7.30pm. Opens Thurs, 7.30pm. Then Tues-Sat, 7.30pm. Until Jan 22.

MUSIC

CLASSICAL

THE KING'S CONSORT: Robert King and his excellent band of players and instrumentalists present two concerts next week in the Wigmore's Early Music and Baroque series. On Wednesday the programme includes music by Pergolesi, Corelli and Domenico Scarlatti, while Friday's New Year's Eve celebration features Telemann, Vivaldi, Purcell and Handel. Among the vocal soloists on both evenings are the great countertenor James Bowman, and the impressive young soprano Susan Gritton.
Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, London, W1 (071-935 2141). Wed, Fri, 7.30pm.

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: The LSO see in the New Year with a series of festive Viennese Concerts featuring the usual lively mix of waltzes, marches and polkas by the Strauss family and their compatriots. John Giorgiadis conducts.
Barbican, Silk Street, London, EC2 (071-638 8891), Fri, 7.30pm; (further performances New Year's Day, 3pm. 7.30pm; and Jan 2, 7.30pm).

OPERA

COSI FAN TUTTE: Music Theatre London's small-scale operatic updatings are witty, irreverent and hugely entertaining. The latest in the series is Mozart's dark comedy, directed, as ever, by Nick Broadhurst; the music arranged and the libretto translated by Tony Britten.
Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London, SE1 (071-928 8800), Mon to next Sat (Jan 1), 7pm.

TWO WIDOWS: ENO's new production of Smetana's comedy, last seen in London 30 years ago, is directed by David Pountney, who is also responsible for the English translation. Marie Mclaughlin, Anne-Marie Owens, Arthur Davies and Donald Adams are among the cast. Adam Fischer conducts.
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London, WC2 (071-836 3161), Thurs, 7.30pm.

ROCK

MEGA-DOG ALL NIGHTER: Techno hippies, the Ozric Tentacles, head an impressive line-up including Orbital, Spooky and System 7 with veteran avant-garde rocker Steve Hillage.
Brixton Academy, London, SW9 (071-924 9999), New Year's Eve, 8pm.

CAPERCAILLIE: The Scottish folk band complete their UK tour with a Hogmanay concert also featuring the Scottish Fiddle Orchestra and the cast of *Les Miserables*.
The Concert in the Gardens, Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh (information: 031-557 2590). New Year's Eve, 10.30pm-12.30am.

BIG COUNTRY. Fresh from their Stateside tour, the guitar-based Scottish band return to these shores for three lively gigs.
Glasgow, Barrowlands (041-552 4601), Wed, 7.30pm. **Newcastle**, University (091-261 4386), Thurs, 7pm. **Aberdeen**, Capitol (0224 583141), New Year's Eve, 9pm-1.30am.

JAZZ

GIL SCOTT-HERON: The politically-motivated singer and pianist whose appellations include "the Godfather of rap" and "Minister of Information", performs with his band the Amnesia Express.
London. Jazz Café (071-916 6000), Thurs, 7pm. **London**, Grand (071-738 9000), Fri, 7pm.

STAN TRACEY: Two dates from the idiosyncratic pianist and composer who has been celebrating his 50th year in the business. In Weybridge he plays with his Quintet, in London, with his Octet.
Hand and Spear, Weybridge (0932 845035), Sun, midday. **Bull's Head**, London, SW13 (081-876 5241), Thurs, 8pm.

DANCE

NUTCRACKER: English National Ballet takes up its annual residence at the South Bank with Ben Stevenson's attractive production. This year's run features guest stars from America and Russia. The former Kirov ballerina Yelena Pankova returns to dance the roles of the Sugar Plum Fairy and the Snow Queen, while the Bolshoi's Yuri Klevtsov will make his company debut. From American Ballet Theatre comes Susan Jaffe.
Festival Hall, South Bank, London, SE1 (071-928 8800), today, 2.30pm. Mon-next Fri, 2.30pm, 7.30pm.

NUTCRACKER: Covent Garden's version, produced by Peter Wright, is a nostalgic affair, handsomely dressed by Julia Trevelyan Oman in Biedermeier period designs. But the star of the show is the fantastic growing Christmas tree, a magical delight for children and adults alike.
Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London, WC2 (071-240 1066), Mon, 2pm, 7pm, Tues, 6pm, next Fri, 6pm.

BOOKING

ICE FANTASY: Following the huge success of the first-ever ice fantasy show in the UK last year, the *Russian All Stars* are making an encore performance this January. The 1994 production will be *The Sleeping Beauty*, set to Tchaikovsky's music and brought to life by Tatiana Tarasova, an acclaimed Russian choreographer whose students have won over 30 Olympic gold medals.
Inverness, Eden Court (0463 221718), Jan 25-29. **Sunderland**, Empire (091-514 2517), Feb 1-5. **Leicester**, Granby Halls (0533 544444), Feb 8-12. **Stockport**, Davenport (061-483 3801), Feb 15-19. **Southend**, Cliffs Pavilion (0702 351135), Feb 22-26. **Bournemouth**, Pavilion (0202 297297), Mar 1-5. **Eastbourne**, Congress (0323 412000), Mar 8-12. **York**, Grand Opera (0904 671818), Mar 15-19. **Wolverhampton**, Grand (0902 29212), Mar 22-26. **Reading**, Hexagon (0734 591591), Mar 29-Apr 2. **Nottingham**, Concert Hall (0602 482626), Apr 5-9. **Rhyll**, Pavilion (0745 330000), Apr 12-16. **Paignton**, Festival Hall (0803 558641), Apr 19-23. **Sheffield**, City Hall (0742 735295), Apr 26-May 1.

EXHIBITIONS

LONDON

THE ILLUSTRATORS: Chris Beetles's Christmastime show of the British art of illustration from 1780 on has become an important annual event, and this year reaches its 12th edition. A central theme is "The Illustrator and the Theatre".
Chris Beetles, 8 & 10 Ryder Street, SW1 (071-839 7551). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, until Jan 31. By appointment only between now and Jan 4.

150 YEARS OF THE CHRISTMAS CARD: The first Christmas card ever sent is alleged to be one designed by John Calcott Horsley in 1843 for Sir Henry Cole, first director of the V&A. Little did he know what his innovation would lead to. The whole history of the form is covered.
Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, SW7 (071-938 8500). Mon, midday-5.50pm. Tues-Sun, 10am-5.50pm, until Jan 9. Closed today to Sun and New Year's Day.

DRAWINGS FROM THE J. PAUL GETTY MUSEUM: Since 1981 the Getty Museum has put together what is already one of the finest collections of drawings in the world. This loan show includes some 120 of them, ranging from Leonardo's *Three Sketches of a Child with a Lamb* to Rembrandt's *Woman with a Snake (Cleopatra)*
Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, W1 (071-439 7438). Daily, 10am-6pm, until Jan 23. Sponsored by *The Times*. Closed today, Christmas Day and Sun.

LONDON AT HOME: The photographer Magda Segal has over the last year undertaken the major project of documenting a cross-section of London's homelife, from a single man with two dogs to a family of 17 Hasidic Jews.
Museum of London, London Wall, EC2 (071-600 3699). Tues-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun midday-6pm, until Feb 27. Closed today, Christmas Day, Sun and New Year's Day; open Jan 2, 3.

GATES OF MYSTERY: The latest artistic arrival out of Russia is the biggest and most important collection of medieval Russian art to travel West since the Thirties, and includes many pieces never seen outside Russia before. They all come from the State Russian Museum in St Petersburg, and range in date from the late tenth century to the early 18th.
Victoria & Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, SW7 (071-938 8500). Mon, midday-5.50pm, Tues-Sun, 10am-5.50pm, until Jan 3. Closed today to Sun and on New Year's Day.

RENAISSANCE FLORENCE: The age of Lorenzo de 'Medici, called the Magnificent, is grandly evoked in a show which seeks to distil the essence of Florence in the latter half of the 15th century through important paintings and Medici family documents.
Accademia Italiana, 24 Rutland Gate, SW7 (071-225 3474). Mon-Sat, 10am-5.30pm (Wed to 8pm), Sun, midday-5.30pm, until Jan 23. Closed today, Christmas Day, Sun and New Year's Day.

OLD MASTER DRAWINGS FROM CHATSWORTH: The cream of the Duke of Devonshire's drawing collection at Chatsworth is well-known, but this large show (220 works) digs out some very little-known examples. Hard to choose highlights, but the wonderful Dürers and Holbeins are a good place to start.
British Museum, Great Russell Street, WC1 (071-636 1555). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2.30-6pm, until Jan 9. Closed today to Mon and on New Year's Day.

REGIONAL

DEGAS IN BRONZE: During his later years Degas made 73 finished sculptures on motifs familiar from his paintings (dancers, horses, women bathing), but only one was exhibited in public during his lifetime. There are now only five complete sets of bronzes, and Glasgow is the only venue in Britain for this touring show of one of the sets, from the Sao Paulo Musée de Arte in Brazil.
Burrell Collection, Pollok Country Park, Glasgow (041-649 7151). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 11am-5pm, until Mar 13. Closed Christmas Day, Sun, New Year's Day and Jan 2.

GEORGE WALTON. The distinguished Glasgow architect and designer has been overshadowed by his contemporary Charles Rennie Mackintosh. But 60 years after his death he is worth taking another look at. Although his stylistic development was less individual than Mackintosh's, he also made an interesting transition from Art Nouveau to his own kind of modernism. A long-lasting connection with Kodak proves to be as productive as it is unexpected
Brighton Museum and Art Gallery, Church Street, Brighton (0273 603005). Mon-Tues, Thurs-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2-5pm, until Jan 9. Closed Christmas Day, Sun and New Year's Day.

NEW VIDEOS

BENNY & JOON (MGM/UA, PG): Off-beat love story with genuine charm, though treacle eventually overwhelms. Johnny Depp and Mary Stuart Masterson do their best as the moonstruck drifter and the unbalanced girl who forge an unlikely romance. Director, Jeremiah Chechik. 1993.



Sylvester Stallone in the action film *Cliffhanger*

CLIFFHANGER (Guild, 15): Sylvester Stallone tangles with John Lithgow's baddies high in the Rockies. Pitiful dialogue, but exuberant, non-stop action. 1993.

EQUINOX (Guild, 15): Alan Rudolph's intoxicating tale of lost souls in a crumbling metropolis, jam-packed with visual magic. With Matthew Modine in dual roles (one mousy, one cocky) and co-starring Lara Flynn Boyle. 1992.

Film: Geoff Brown; **Theatre:** Jeremy Kingston; **Classical Music and Opera:** Gwen Hughes, **Rock and Jazz:** Stephanie Osborne; **Dance:** Debra Craine; **Exhibitions:** John Russell Taylor; **New Videos:** Geoff Brown; **Booking:** Kris Anderson

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page *20*

DISCISSION
(c) Listen with narrowed eyes if your optician suggests doing this. It means sticking a needle in your eye, or generally an incision into a tumour or cataract, from the Latin *dis-* asunder + *caedere* to cut.

EUHEMERISM
(b) The method of mythological interpretation which regards myths as traditional accounts of real incidents in human history, an eponym from *Euhemerus*, a Sicilian (c. 316 BC), who maintained that the deities of Hellenic mythology were deified men and women, and pretended to cite authentic records of their lives.

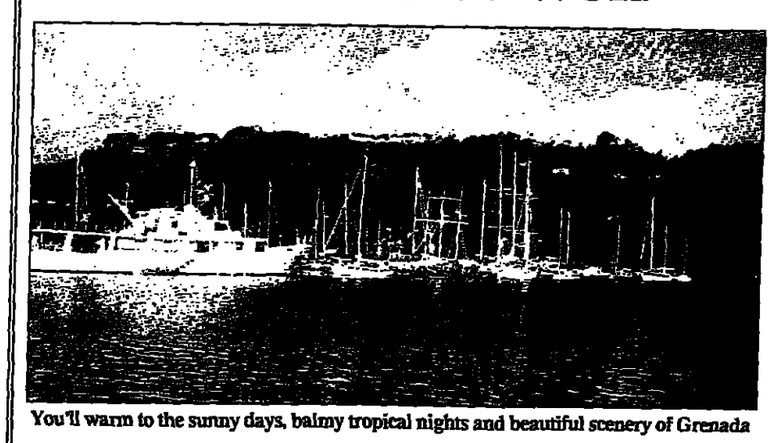
NOSISM
(a) An attitude of mind in a group of persons, corresponding to egotism in the individual, collective arrogance, the occupational vice of governments long in power, from the Latin *nos* we + *-ism*: "The egotism or nosism of the other luminaries of the Lake School is at times extravagant enough, and amusing enough withal."

PERDUELLION
(a) Hostility against the state or government, treason, from the Latin *perduellion-em*, *per* through, intensive + *duellis* a public or private enemy: Walter Scott, *Heart of Midlothian* 1818: "I am of opinion that this rising to take away the life of a reprieved man will prove little better than perduellion."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
1 b8/Q+! Bxb8 2 Nb7+ Kc8 3 Ne7 checkmate.

THE TIMES £10,000 SPICE ISLAND HOLIDAY COMPETITION

Five Caribbean holidays for two to be won





You'll warm to the sunny days, balmy tropical nights and beautiful scenery of Grenada

Sparkling turquoise Caribbean waters lapping white coral sands, tropical rainforests, thundering waterfalls, temperatures around 80F/27C, beauty everywhere — and all packed into one small island of about 21 miles long by 12 miles wide. This is Grenada, most southerly of the Windward islands, about 150 miles southwest of Barbados.

It is a place where the contrasting, unspoilt landscape offers never-ending delights, and where small towns bustle with colourful shops selling such things as locally made perfumes and soothing body oils, preserves and sweets and, most popular of the souvenirs, spice baskets filled with nutmeg, cinnamon, mace, bayleaf and cloves.

It is also the holiday spot where five *Times* readers and their companions can spend an idyllic two weeks next year, flying Caledonian, and staying at the first-class Rex Grenadian Hotel overlooking Tamarind Bay, near the island's capital, St George's.

Built in Palladian style, the hotel offers a choice of two restaurants with contrasting views, two superb beaches — one dedicated to watersports — and a regular programme of evening entertainment. Meals will be on a half-board basis so that you can also enjoy the exotic fare of the local restaurants.

Each holiday for two, offered by *The Times* in association with Hayes and Jarvis, the worldwide tour operator, is worth about £2,000.

To win one of these fantastic Caribbean holidays, all you have to do is solve the three questions on the right and phone in the answers before midnight next Wednesday, December 29.

The winners, chosen at random from all entries, will then be offered this magnificent holiday for two which may be taken next year between April 7 and July 13, or August 25 and December 8.

Like the idea? Then work out the answers and reach for the phone.

THREE KEY QUESTIONS TO UNLOCK A HOLIDAY

1 *What name did Christopher Columbus give to Grenada?*
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HAYES and JARVIS

Beam me up, Ebenezer

How has Patrick Stewart made the leap from *Star Trek* to *A Christmas Carol*? **Carol Allen** finds out

For the past two years former Royal Shakespeare Company actor Patrick Stewart, who found fame and some fortune in America as captain of the Starship Enterprise, has spent Christmas on Broadway. This year he is bringing his acclaimed one-man performance of Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* home to England for a short season at the Old Vic.

The project was born nearly a decade ago, before Stewart had any idea that fate would be taking him where no Shakespearean actor has gone before. It was a bitterly cold December evening, and Stewart had been persuaded to give a reading of the book for the organ restoration fund in the West Riding church where he had been a choirboy some 40 years earlier. Three years later, and now living in the Californian sunshine, he was looking around for suitable material for a one-man show and remembered that evening. After a period of experimentation, the show was picked up by Timothy Childs, a banker turned producer, who took it to New York in 1991. There it played to packed houses and gained Stewart a Drama Desk award for best solo performance.

Although simply staged, without sets, make-up, costume changes or props, and using only five pieces of furniture, the performance successfully evokes the cold city streets and cramped interiors of Dickens's tale, peopled by about 40 speaking characters, all played by Stewart.

"The most difficult scene is the Cratchits' Christmas party, where there are eight Cratchits on stage at the same time. It is also the only time I have ever played women and I particularly enjoy playing Mrs Cratchit. The English do have this tradition of male actors longing to get into skirts and I have never done it, not even a pantomime dame!" He gives me a demonstration, his mellifluous voice, honed by years of Shakespearean roles, relishing the pictorial language of the narration, his face and delivery altering to suit the dialogue of the different characters.

'There was a Scrooge in me that needed to find a voice and get himself redeemed a little bit'

Although the actor also acts as his own director, he acknowledges the help he has had both from his actor son, Daniel, now also living and working in Los Angeles, and from his old friend Roger Rees, himself an accomplished Dickensian from his *Nicholas Nickleby* days. "It was Roger who pointed out to me that if the play was to work, I had to find this miserable, unhappy, mean-spirited individual inside myself.

"Although the show is a lot of fun and there is a great deal of humour in it, there is an underlying seriousness in the story. It deals with one of the great themes of literature, a man's redemption. Maybe it was my age or the stage of my life I was at, but I was very moved by this man in the process of damning himself, who changes his life and seizes the opportunity of a second chance. I think in a way there was a Scrooge in me that needed to find a voice and get himself redeemed a little bit. Or maybe I have just lived in America for too long."

Stewart has lived in America since 1987, when millions of Trekkies, addicted for more than 20 years to Captain Kirk, Dr Spock and Bones, found themselves having to adjust to *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, led by Stewart as Captain Jean Luc Picard, the Frenchman with the English accent.



Patrick Stewart takes about 40 speaking parts in his one-man version of *A Christmas Carol*

"It continues to surprise me that people should comment on this. One of the points about Gene Roddenberry's 24th century is that not only do we have a united planet, but we also have a united federation of planets. Even in our time we see ourselves moving towards a united Europe and I continually protest that by that time we shall all be speaking the same language or be fluent in everyone else's."

Stewart defends the show vigorously against any suggestion that it is hokum (albeit entertaining and well-produced hokum) and as a lifelong socialist he finds Roddenberry's fairytale vision of a world with no poverty, sexism, racism or religious intolerance very appealing.

"The subject matter is often very serious, albeit dressed in science fiction trappings. It saddens me that here in Britain it is for the most part looked on as that rather silly kids' show, in which people walk around wearing their pyjamas all the time, because I don't think it is. It is to an extent a Utopian vision.

"Once we leave this solar system we find that life out in the galaxy and beyond is just as bloody and confusing and unequal and full of all kinds of prejudices as our world is now. But we do not interfere with what we find, we leave it as it is, and several of the best episodes have dealt with that particular problem.

"As Gene used to say, every culture, every society requires a mythology. In the earlier part of the 20th century a lot of that need was provided by the American West. There is a hunger in us to have hero figures that are larger than life and able to do the impossible and it seems entirely appropriate that our mythology now should be being created around the future. It's one of the things which explains the popularity of the show, particularly in the United States, which is on the one hand so sophisticated and so cruelly adult and on the other hand so astonishingly childlike and immature."

Perhaps it was Roddenberry's desire to incorporate such philosophical themes into a popular mass audience television show which inspired his apparently eccentric choice of an English classical actor to play the new captain of the Enterprise in the mid-Eighties, a role which Stewart has been described as playing in the style of a Shakespearean monarch.

"In a sense in North America that is the way it is seen. When I was offered the role I didn't realise how powerful a symbol the captain's chair of the Enterprise is. In the early months of the series I was continually asked questions which implied that by leaving Shakespeare for *Star Trek* I had sold out. Finally in irritation I said to one interviewer, 'now look here, all of those years of sitting on a variety of thrones in England playing countless kings and princes with the Royal Shakespeare Company was nothing more than a preparation for sitting in the captain's chair of the Enterprise'. Then driving home I began to reflect that in many respects that was true, given what that chair and the captain actually mean to the audience."

The role got him voted the sexiest man on American television, an accolade he found somewhat embarrassing at the age of 52. More important, the *Star Trek* policy of allowing its star actors to direct the odd episode has given him his first opportunity in that area, something he now wishes he had done earlier. He has directed five episodes, has another planned for next season, and hopes one day to direct a feature film.

British viewers without satellite television will get a chance to see Stewart's directing efforts when *Star Trek: The Next Generation* returns to the BBC sometime next summer. There is also a *New Generation* movie planned, with possible guest appearances from Kirk, Spock and other original Enterprisers.

But although Stewart sees himself still spending a lot of time working in North America, a copy of Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* lying on the coffee table of his hotel room gives a clue to some of his other future aspirations. He did the play at the Young Vic eight years ago for the director David Thacker, and turned down the chance of a West End transfer in order to go to Hollywood. Now he and Thacker have hopes of reviving that production next autumn.

'I didn't realise how powerful a symbol the captain's chair of the Enterprise is'

After 34 years as an actor, *A Christmas Carol* will be his first venture into commercial West End theatre, and he would like to do more of that, but even so there are still Shakespearean roles, such as Prospero, which he has played in the United States and Claudius in *Hamlet*, which he did for BBC television, which he would like to play with the RSC before it is too late.

"Certain roles have passed me by. I would like to play Lear. I am hungry to play is Falstaff. But central to all these is a desire I have, which may never be realised given the state of our world today, and that is to play Othello."

Glad though he is that he has planned a quiet Christmas at home, before opening at the Old Vic on December 27, there is something special that Stewart will miss about playing Scrooge on Broadway on Christmas Day itself.

"There is of course that emotionally climactic moment in the story when Scrooge pokes his head out of the window and asks the little boy: 'what is today?' Each time we have done it on Broadway the audience has actually responded 'It's Christmas Day' on Christmas Day, but this time of course it won't happen."

● *A Christmas Carol opens at the Old Vic (071 928 7616) on Tuesday*

The Kirov play on home ground

FROM Lisa's first encounter with Herman in the Summer Gardens to her suicide under the shadow of St Peter and St Paul, **The Queen of Spades** is centred on St Petersburg. Tchaikovsky's opera is as firmly anchored there as *Tosca* is to Rome. So it is totally appropriate that Philips's recording (438 141-2, 3CDs) should stem from the Kirov, latest in a line of Russian opera sets from that company and one of the best.

Valery Gergiev, the Kirov's music director, leads a high-octane performance. Despite the Pastorale in Act II, *The Queen of Spades* is a dark and melodramatic piece, a long way off from the detached clarity of Pushkin's original story. Gergiev relishes the brooding chords and the dementia that slowly overtakes Herman.

Gegam Grigorian's high, plangent tenor, used without inhibition, is ideal for the solitary officer who announces at the start that he is both sick and in love. Maria Gulegina suggests that Liza, sunk in melancholia, is only marginally more stable. The last act inevitably brings the suicide of both.

OPERA ON RECORD

Around them Tchaikovsky and his librettist, brother Modest, placed more solid citizens. Vladimir Chernov returns from the Met to his old company to sing Yeletsky (a Modest invention) and does so with great suavity. Irina Arkhipova is the Countess who gets her own back for being literally frightened out of her life. And there is a notable Pauline, Liza's friend, from Olga Borodina. But the set really sounds like a company effort and under Gergiev the Kirov is turning into one of the very best, at least in Russian opera.

Detractors of Ambroise Thomas — and there were quite a few — accused him of cashing in on the success of Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette* when he wrote *Hamlet*. Perhaps he needed a lead. But once given one he was capable of some glorious melodies and he knew how to please his audiences. He might even have been a bit too considerate: *Hamlet* was provided with two conclusions, one where the Prince is crowned king of Denmark and the other, known as "the Covent Garden ending', where he dies by Ophelia's side.

Both are included on EMI's recording (CDS 7 54820 2, 3CDs). America's best take the leads. Thomas Hampson provides more dash than melancholy in the title role, not least in the most famous number, Hamlet's very un-Shakespearean drinking song with which he welcomes the Players. In the early scenes Samuel Ramey for once is rather over-shadowed as Claudius, but he comes into his own later, as does the rising mezzo, Denyce Graves, as Gertrude.

June Anderson is the Ophelia, outstanding as she drifts in and out of sanity during Thomas's celebrated Act IV Mad Scene. Antonio de Almeida, who did a similar resurrection job on Thomas's *Mignon*, draws vivid playing from the LPO.

Massenet wrote **Don Quichotte** for Chaliapin, but by report none too pleased with the liberties the Russian bass took with the title role. No such accusations could be levelled at Jose Van Dam on EMI (CDS 7 54767 2, 2CDs). He provides singing of great warmth, but the overall effect is bland. A futher problem is that Van Dam's voice carries much the same weight as that of his Sancho Panza, Alain Fondary. The two men spend much of the opera together and there are identification problems. Nor can Teresa Berganza now carry the voluptuousness for Dulcinea, adept though she may be at Massenet's mock Spanish songs.

The strongest contribution comes from Michel Plasson and his Toulouse Orchestra, but even he does not convince that *Don Quichotte* is Massenet at his best.

JOHN HIGGINS



June Anderson, outstanding as Ophelia

THE SUNDAY TIMES
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TELEVISION REVIEW: Actresses and models have their say

Faces, figures and fantasies

IT'S a sort of Pavlovian response, I suppose, instilled through years of watching ITV. Just a few screen seconds of bouncy-haired nine-year-old beauty queens ("I was Little Miss America!") are required — or doe-eyed Hollywood actresses lisping "I never had a girl friend; girls are so terrified of the competition" — and instantly the viewer feels this deep automatic urge to hear the corny tones of Alan Whicker.

The connection is understandable. Not only are meaningless glamour and obscene wealth two subjects he has made his own, but he is also the master of the inoffensive joshing debunk. "Oh come *on*," you yearned to hear him say, "Married to Sylvester Stallone and you want people to feel *sorry* for you?"

But if Alan Whicker was nowhere in sight, it was still a great evening for superficiality, what with Don Boyd's **The Babe Business** on Channel 4 (about modelling) playing against the last instalment of Carlton's **Hollywood Women** (ITV). Obliged to watch both films in an unfinished state, without the name captions, I found it no particular disadvantage to know who nobody was: it just enhanced the weird, airy Emperor's New Clothes sensation — that the world of glamour has no real existence, is a mere conspiracy of puff, sustained by everyone closing their eyes and believing in fairies.

On the subject of glamour I speak with slim authority, I admit. Until a few months ago, I thought Linda Evangelista was the spot where Columbus made landfall. But Boyd's film was not an analysis of the industry, in any case; it was a warm anecdotal portrait, mixing interviews and fly-on-the-wall, with no particular point to make, and at its best when being funny. A succession of girls turn up at a magazine, and are let down kindly but not lightly. "You're a little commercial for us, but you're pretty . . . you need to smile . . . you need to lose some weight . . . you're too short."

This is a world in which people say "You're very nice looking" as a matter of fact, not a compliment, and as a way of saying no, not yes; where insincerity is the sincerest thing they've got. The best scenes in *The Babe Business* concerned a big-time agent phoning his girls — one abroad, one ill — his ostensible eagerness for their welfare a thin Grannie's shawl inadequately masking the frenzied yellow-eyed self-interest underneath.

"We're sending round some chicken soup, drink lots of water, take vitamins," he tells Girl A, mentally wringing his hands like Shylock. ("My daughter, O my ducats, O my daughter!"). He is busy, sharp, a commodity dealer. "You give me two quick minutes, I'll call you back right *this second*," he promises. "Bye little princess, bye baby!" He speaks to Girl B. "You keeping the weight down?" he inquires, without preamble. "Concentrate, baby, you really got to focus."

Hollywood Women's last instalment, dealing with the down-side of Dream City, was less funny and delivered fewer surprises. I mean, guess what? The women of Hollywood are friendless, they get dumped by their husbands for younger girls, the city is violent, they are obliged to live inside secure compounds, they go bonkers, and they are at a high risk from Aids. A sense of humour would be an advantage, but on the other hand it would also be their undoing. Oh where is Alan Whicker, when you need him?

LYNNE TRUSS



Carmen, a New York model, surviving in a tinsel world

OPERA IN FRANCE

Expanding the bandits

Les Brigands
Bastille, Paris

THE Opéra de Paris Bastille is not the natural home for opéra bouffe, even for as superior an example as Offenbach's *Les Brigands*. A publicity banner flaps untidily on the antiseptic exterior of the building and the cartoon bandits imposed on the standard programme cover look as though they are about to slide straight off the silvery surface.

But the Bastille needs a popular success as much as any other company, and, having had ample opportunity to see the Deschamps-Makeieff production in action at the Netherlands Opera, they could at least hope for the best. In fact, it isn't quite as incongruous in this space as it might be.

Françoise Darne's sets were conceived for a similarly large stage in Amsterdam and symmetrically designed in the manner of Second Empire toy theatre. With a deep perspective centred on the volcano which, as everyone knows, dominates the border between Italy and Spain, they offer a witty and at the same time handsome setting. If only Jérôme Deschamps and Macha Makeieff had found an equally ingenious solution to the problem of presenting satirical comedy, in a large house, all would be well. Sadly they revert all too often to clumsy drunk acts, irrelevant clowning, clattering pratfalls and noisy explosions. In general they are more successful with posturing Spaniards than intrusive Italians.

'Clumsy drunk acts, irrelevant clowning, clattering pratfalls, noisy explosions'

There is a problem with the music too. From the beginning it is obvious that the auditorium is too large for both the instrumental scoring and the kind of voice required by Offenbach's word setting. Charmed by the stylish conducting of Louis Langrée, one gets used to it and to enjoy it too, particularly when it comes (as it frequently does) to that most delightful example of its kind, "*J'entends un bruit de Bottes, Bottes, Bottes. . .*". Michel Sénéchal as Falsacappa, the leader of the bandits, is too experienced a performer to let an opportunity like that go to waste, while Michèle Lagrange as his daughter and Doris Lamprecht in the breeches role of her lover are good value in the dozen or so other numbers of high-quality inspiration.

Anyone tempted to indulge a taste for these things can be assured of the right kind of musical gratification only if those singers are performing in the three main roles (I have not seen the singers who are sharing the parts). But there are ten other principal roles, most well cast, with Ryland Davies and Jules Bastin outstanding among them.

GERALD LARNER

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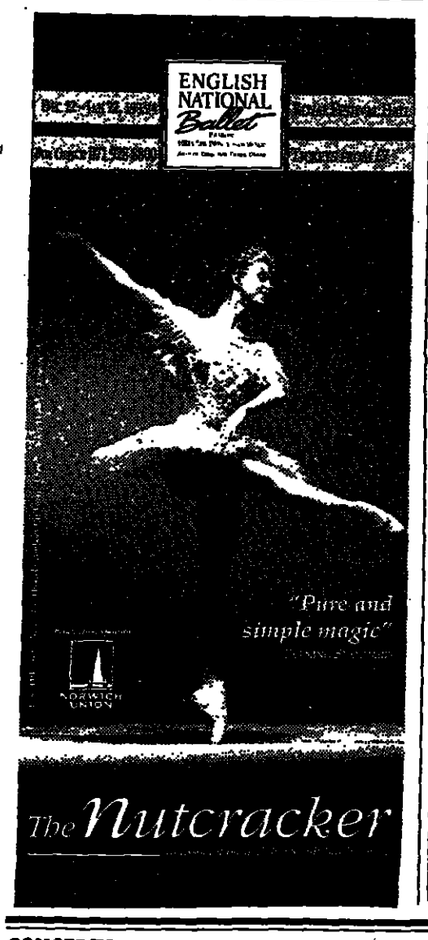






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MONDAY 27 DECEMBER at 7.30
GRAND CLASSICAL GALA
National Symphony Orchestra
Conductor David Coleman
Pro Musica Chorus Kentish Opera Chorus
Band of the Grenadier Guards
Baritone Alan Opie
MENDELSSOHN Overture Fingal's Cave, ROSSINI Largo al factotum Barber of Seville, HANDEL Hallelujah Chorus The Messiah, JEREMIAH CLARKE Trumpet Voluntary, VAUGHAN WILLIAMS Greensleeves, VERDI Anvil Chorus Il Trovatore DUKAS The Sorcerer's Apprentice, ELGAR Pomp & Circumstance March No. 1, ALBINONI Adagio GOUNOD Soldiers' Chorus Faust, VERDI Di Provenza La Traviata, BORODIN Polovtsian Dances Prince Igor, LEONCAVALLO Prologue I Pagliacci, JOHANN STRAUSS Radetzky March, RAVEL Bolero
Tchaikovsky '1812' OVERTURE
with cannon & mortar effects and
SPECTACULAR LASERS

TUESDAY 28 DECEMBER at 7.30
GRAND OPERA GALA
National Symphony Orchestra
Conductor David Coleman
Malcolm Sargent Festival Choir
Fanfare Trumpeters of the Grenadier Guards
THREE GREAT OPERA STARS
Sop Julie Dalton Tenor Anthony Mee
Baritone David Barrell
VERDI Overture The Force of Destiny, PUCCINI Che gelida manina, Si mi chiamano Mimi, O soave fanciulla La Boheme, VERDI Eri tu A Masked Ball, PUCCINI One fine day, Humming chorus Madam Butterfly, VERDI Dio che n'all alma Don Carlos, VERDI Grand March Aida, PUCCINI Intermezzo Manon Lescaut, VERDI Brindisi, Di provenza il mar La Traviata, PUCCINI Vissi d'arte, E luscvan le stelle, Te deum Tosca VERDI La donna è mobile Rigoletto, VERDI Ritorna Vincitor Aida, VERDI D'amor sull'ali rosee & miserere Il Trovatore, VERDI Chorus of Hebrew Slaves Nabucco, PUCCINI NESSUN DORMA & FINAL SCENE Turandot

WEDNESDAY 29 DECEMBER at 7.30
IGOR OISTRAKH
40th ANNIVERSARY CONCERT
BEETHOVEN
Overture Leonora No.3
BEETHOVEN
Violin Concerto in D
TCHAIKOVSKY
Violin Concerto in D
PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA
Conductor ARNOLD KATZ

THURSDAY 30 DECEMBER at 7.30
GRAND TCHAIKOVSKY GALA
National Symphony Orchestra
Conductor David Coleman
Band of the Grenadier Guards
STARS OF THE MOSCOW CITY BALLET
Svetlana Filippova and Dmitri Romanov*
Elvira Rikova and Arkady Ustemtsev*
Fantasy Overture, Romeo & Juliet
Swan Lake - Pas de deux
Eugene Onegin - Waltz & Polonaise
Capriccio Italien
March - Symphony No.6
Nutcracker - Grand Pas de deux
Overture "1812"
with cannon & mortar effects
SPECTACULAR LASERS

FRIDAY 31 DECEMBER at 7.30
GRAND OPERA GALA
National Symphony Orchestra
Conductor David Coleman
Malcolm Sargent Festival Choir
Fanfare Trumpeters of the Royal Engineers
FOUR GREAT OPERA STARS
Soprano Susan McCulloch Mezzo Sally Burgess
Tenor Edmund Barham Baritone Keith Latham
Ov.HANSEL & GRETEL, Largo al factotum BARBER OF SEVILLE, Anvil Chorus IL TROVATORE, O mio babbino caro GIANNI SCHICCHI, On with the motley I PAGLIACCI, Flower duet LAKME, Duet THE PEARLFISHERS, Soldiers' Chorus FAUST, Grand March AIDA, Softly awakes my heart SAMSON & DELILAH, Toreador's song CARMEN, Ride of the Valkyries DIE WALKURE, Quartet RIGOLETTO, Habanera CARMEN, Love duet OTELLO, Musetta's Waltz LA BOHEME, Intermezzo CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA Chorus of Hebrew Slaves NABUCCO, Nessun dorma & Final scene TURANDOT
Overture & Party Scene DIE FLEDERMAUS
with a wealth of surprises!

SATURDAY 1 JANUARY at 7.30
VIENNESE NEW YEAR GALA
National Symphony Orchestra
Conductor David Coleman
The Strauss Ballet Company
Suppé Overture Light Cavalry
Johann Strauss II *Excerpts from* Graduation Ball*, Romantic Waltz*, Good Girl Polka*, Perpetuum Mobile*, Cuckoo Polka, Emperor Waltz, New Year Galop*, Hungarian Polka*, Egyptian March, Chatterbox Polka, Tales from the Vienna Woods, Pizzicato Polka, The Blue Danube Waltz*
Josef Strauss Anvil Polka,
Waldteufel Skaters' Waltz, Waltz Espana*
Johann Strauss I Radetzky March, Bahn Frei
Hans Christian Lumbye Champagne Galop
With many surprises to celebrate the New Year
*Items to be danced

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Enjoy the colour and excitement of 'Carnival' in Knightsbridge
THE COST OF £400 PER COUPLE INCLUDES:-
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* Dancing until 2 am
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Lone round-the world yachtsman **Michael Golding** has made good progress, despite a few calluses and a fluffed photo opportunity

Going like a breeze before a fickle wind

What I would like most for Christmas is one of those new-fangled things that changes sails, cooks, and best of all washes up — it's called a crew.

I have a bunk full of presents to open tomorrow, but since none has wriggled since I set out from Southampton 33 days ago to sail around the world alone, I know I am out of luck.

So far I have enjoyed good fortune, crossing the equator on December 12, four days ahead of my schedule and three hours ahead of *British Steel II*, the leading yacht in the fully crewed race last winter that also went west-about around the world. More importantly, I am already 16 days up on the record time set by Chay Blyth 22 years ago, averaging better than 8 knots over the first 6,000 miles.

It has not all been plain sailing, however. With the fresh air and exercise, this long distance sailing has some beneficial effects on health but, since leaving, I have split a molar on a biscuit and my hands are a mass of calluses and cuts, which refuse to heal in this saltwater environment. Now, with the 2,000 miles to Cape Horn and my solo baptism in the Southern Ocean, I have the medical kit open to try to clear up the damage as soon as possible. If these sores are still open once I am down in the "Furious Fifty" latitudes, then the icy Southern Ocean will cause me real trouble.

Much of my first week at sea was spent sorting out unexpected problems with chafing within the rig of my 67ft yacht, *Group 4 Securitas*. I have fitted roller furling systems to the foresails which work well, but the fully battened mainsail, designed to make reefing easy, was rubbing badly on the rigging. The problem was finally solved by pulling down the sail several times to add patches while keeping an eye open for further wear.

One week out, off the Portuguese coast, the boat and I endured our first gale together. It was good experience for the Southern Ocean but it left me desperately tired. There was a lot of shipping around, and for the next four days, I could steal no more than four hours' sleep in each 24 hours.

Eventually the north-east trade winds filled in and I found myself surfing down steep seas at 11 knots and in control — just. Then the blasted wind shifted round behind me and I had to gybe; not an easy task on a boat this size when you are alone.

What a mess I got myself into. The headsail wrapped itself around the forestay — a devious double/triple twist that defied all sensible attempts to unwind it. To cure the problem, I had to make my first, somewhat scary trip up the forestay in my self-ascending kit, a technical name for the four-part purchase attached to the bosun's chair. Five hours later and with the yacht a mass of tangled rope and sails, I finally sorted it out by pulling the sail round and round the stay until it cleared.

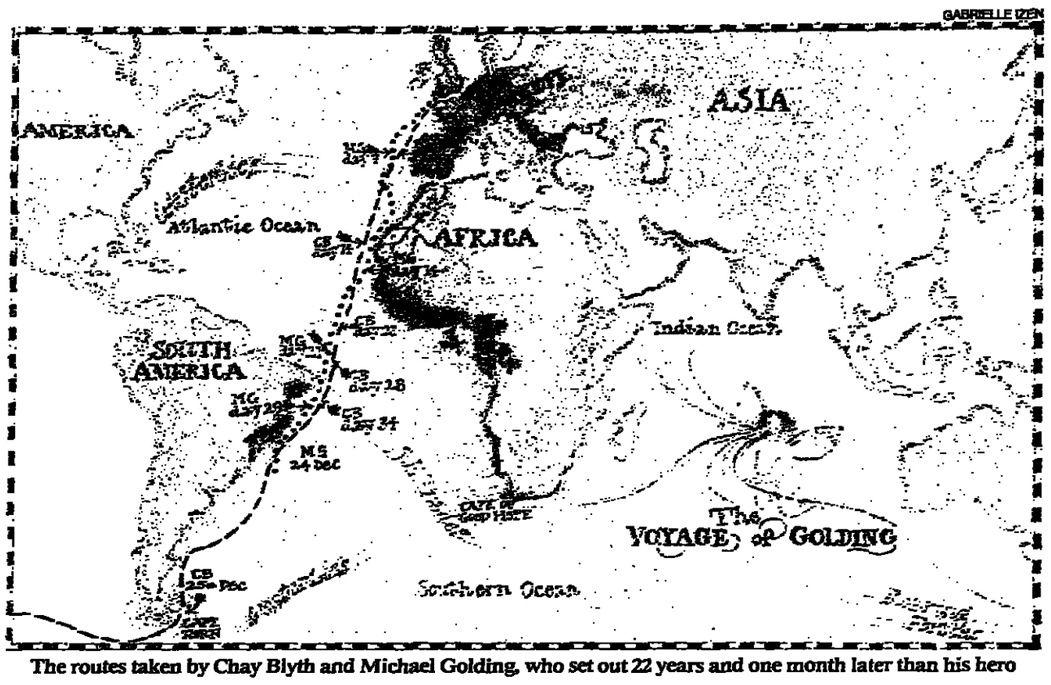
In contrast, the first film-drop rendezvous off the west coast of Gran Canaria on day 12 went smoothly. Adrian Donovan, a rival skipper in last winter's British Steel Challenge race, brought out the film crew aboard a yacht he is delivering to the Caribbean. We sailed in company for several hours and had a good yarn, my first direct contact with the outside world. I dropped a canister of film off for them to collect and the film crew rushed back to charter a plane to take aerial shots.

The meeting buoyed up my spirits no end and I decided to put up the spinnaker and make a show of it when they returned. However, just as I got the sail up, the wind shifted. Down it came again, I gybed the boat and reset the sail on the other side. Then the wind shifted again and began blowing fitfully, varying from 5 to 30 knots. By now I was soaked in sweat and exhausted, the bonhomie long gone.

One last attempt for the sake of public relations. You guessed it. The bloody wind swung round again and just as I got the sail down, the plane appeared. The wind, I have learnt, can test you to the point of screaming. Perhaps it is just as well there is nobody out here to hear me.

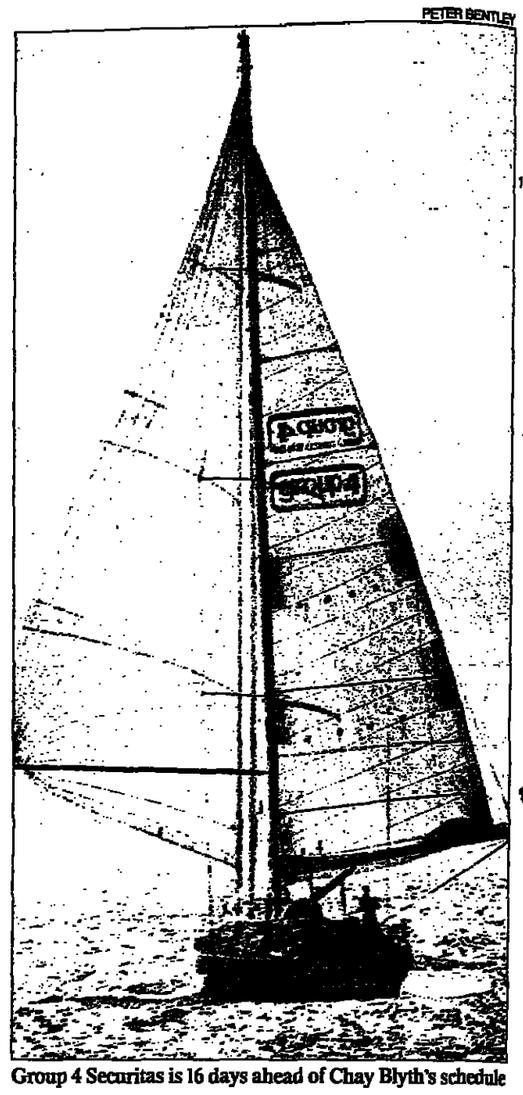
Interview by Barry Pickthall

GABRIELLE IZEN



The routes taken by Chay Blyth and Michael Golding, who set out 22 years and one month later than his hero

PETER BENTLEY



Group 4 Securitas is 16 days ahead of Chay Blyth's schedule

Oliver Tickell reports on water meadow restoration

The Windrush banks flood with new life

Over half a century of agricultural intensification, the water meadows of England have been reduced to less than one twentieth of their former extent. But now an innovative project is restoring 170 acres of water meadow on the National Trust estate at Sherborne, near Burford in Gloucestershire.

In 1965, after 300 years or more of traditional management, Sherborne's meadows were drained and ploughed for wheat, while the Thames Conservancy flood control engineers dredged out and deepened the river Windrush. A rich, extensive habitat for summer flowers, dragonflies and wading birds was eliminated. Until now.

Initially, Andrew Mayled, the NT's area warden for Gloucestershire, had the idea to create an otter habitat, but the idea grew into something more ambitious — the largest water meadow restoration project in Britain, launched at a cost of £70,000, funded by the trust and the Countryside Commission's Countryside Stewardship Scheme.

Only the main sluices, bridges and drains remained, so the first step was to rediscover the meadows' complex drainage and irrigation network. An 1888 Ordnance Survey map provided some of the information; memories of those who knew the system before it fell into disuse in the 1930s filled in other gaps. William Tremaine, for example, made hay on the meadows with his father, and carried on farming the land until his retirement last year.

"John Lester drove a tractor and his main memory was of nearly getting bitten to death by horseflies, so he didn't regret seeing the meadows drained and ploughed," Mr Mayled says. "Fortunately, he remembered the layout of the sluices and ditches, so his knowledge was very useful."

> 'Wildlife was a by-product; we are putting it at the forefront'

From October to March, the meadows were flooded by a shallow, fast-moving flow of river water. This kept the land a few degrees above freezing point in winter. "Because of this you could keep the grass growing in the shallow water through the winter," Mr Mayled says. "Then you would drain the meadows off at the beginning of April and give the sheep and cattle their early bite of fresh grass."

By the end of May, livestock was moved on to other pastures. Then the meadows were briefly reflooded by opening the river's sluice gates, to replenish moisture and nutrients, and left to grow until the July hay-cut. After another short flooding, cattle would then graze down the growth until the land was again flooded for the winter.

The meadows were labour-intensive: two men were employed on the land throughout the year, and villagers would join in hay-making for a month or more. But they were very productive. About 3,000 bales of hay a year were cut in the early 1900s.

Graham Scholey, the local conservation officer for the National Rivers Authority (NRA), encouraged the scheme. He says the plan is not to revive the former management routine in its entirety: "The purpose is to make a viable farming unit and to maximise nature conservation. Wildlife used to be a by-product, now we are putting it at the forefront.

"The NRA's main contribution was to excavate the ditches," Mr Scholey says. "We also made a detailed survey so that we would know where to put the excavated earth to prevent stagnant water pools and get a smooth flow of water."

At the same time, the NRA was also rehabilitating the river itself. "Much of the river Windrush had been over-dredged and over-engineered," Mr Scholey says. "In places, the natural bed had been ripped away to increase capacity, taking out all the micro-habitats that are vital for wildlife."

The NRA has reinstated gravel beds for spawning fish, introduced boulders to create "riffle and pool" systems, and flattened the riverbank profile to make shallow, shelved banks for wild flowers and water plants.

The Windrush is now alive with a surging power, thanks to the NRA's flood control engineers. "Some of them could have been digging the river out 30 years ago," Mr Scholey says, "which shows how the thinking has changed."

Back on the meadows, most of the ditches are now in place, and the land has been reseeded with seven species of grass to ensure biological diversity. New sluice gates are in place, made of estate-grown oak and ironwork wrought by the estate blacksmith to a traditional design. "We believe in being historically correct," Mr Mayled says.

There is nothing orthodox, however, in the agreement between the trust and its new tenant farmer on the meadows, Robert Jones, who moves in this month. By performing environmental services, such as operating the water meadows, managing wood pasture, laying hedges, controlling farm effluent and maintaining nitrate-free areas, he will be able to offset up to 20 per cent of his rent.

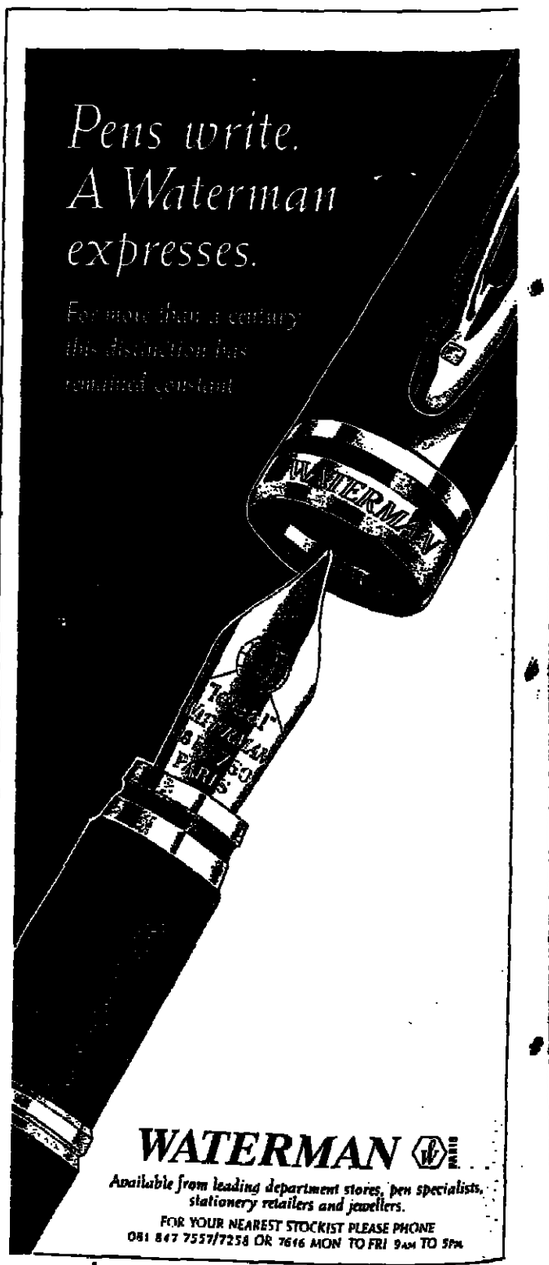
"This is the first such agreement the trust has signed, and we are doing it as a test for the future," Mr Mayled says. "We may be regarded as an organisation interested only in houses and gardens, but we take conservation seriously."

Evidence of this is in the £40,000 the trust has spent so far on restoring the meadows, complemented by more than £30,000 in grants from the Countryside Stewardship Scheme. "Compared to what you can spend on a historic house it's a small sum," Mr Mayled says, "but the end result will be superb: the largest working unit of water meadows in Britain."

OLIVER TICKELL



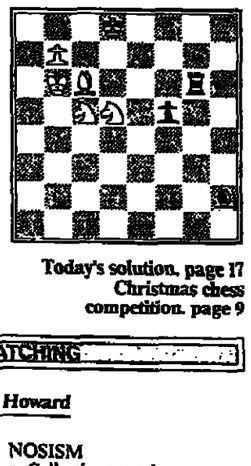
Andrew Mayled (left), and Graham Scholey examine a sluice on the Sherborne estate



WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Today's position is from the game Flear - Emms, Hastings Challengers 1989/90. How does White use the cluster of pieces he has around the Black king to force a decision?



Today's solution, page 17
Christmas chess competition, page 9

Spectators wishing to visit this year's category 13 Hastings Premier should ring 0424 - 445348 for further details.

The solution and winners of last Saturday's Winning Move competition will be published on New Year's Day.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

DISCISSION
a. A heated argument
b. Divorce
c. Sticking needle in eye

EUHEMERISM
a. Good nature
b. Taking myths literally
c. Fine weather

NOSISM
a. Collective conceit
b. Prejudice against nose shapes
c. A negative reaction

PERDUELLION
a. Treason
b. A duellist's rapier
c. A cold winter wind

Answers on page 17

Feather report

Wild about turkey

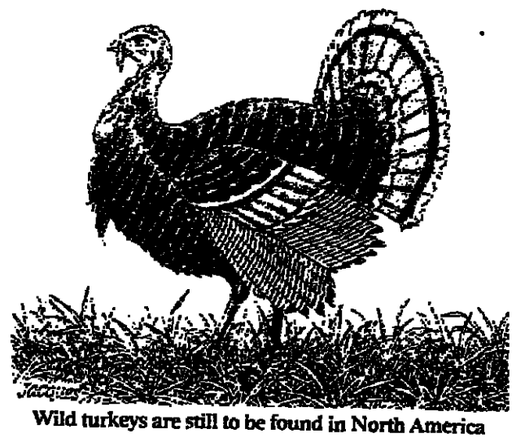
Turkeys do not, as you might suppose, come from Turkey. They come from North America, and the first Europeans to eat them were the Spaniards, who found them living wild in the Mexican forests. The Spanish brought them back across the Atlantic, and the English were already eating them by 1540.

Why are they called turkeys, then? It seems that at first they were not clearly distinguished from the guinea fowl, which is an African bird. The guinea fowl were brought to this country by the "Turkey merchants", or traders with the east, and both species were christened "turkeys". Nobody seems to know why the name "turkey" was attached finally to the one bird rather than the other: it has been suggested that the turkey's gobbling sounds rather like "turk, turk, turk".

They still live as wild birds in the United States, from Pennsylvania to Florida, and also west into Mexico. But they are immensely shy, and to have seen one is a feather in an American ornithologist's cap. The wild turkey looks quite like an old Norfolk turkey — generally brown, or even black, with brilliant reflections of bronze or metallic green, and the same bare head and neck adorned with red wattles that is familiar to us in farmyard birds. But the wild turkey is a trim, athletic bird. Our fat turkeys, bred for the market, often waddle around with dislocated hips, so great is the weight of meat they carry on their breast.

It was the British who sent the turkey back to America as a table bird, on the ships of the early settlers. Its wild ancestor is now extinct in the more northerly states, not only because the turkeys were shot for food, but also because they were considered a threat to cornfields, and guards were mounted to prevent flocks of wild turkeys descending. It's a hard life for a turkey.

DERWENT MAY



Wild turkeys are still to be found in North America

● **What's about:** *Birders — check local lakes and gravel pits for smew. Twitchers — ivory gull, Lerwick, Scotland; red-breasted goose, Pulborough, West Sussex. Details from Birdline, 0891 700222. Calls cost 36p a minute cheap rate, 45p a minute at all other times.*

هكذا من الأصل